

District 5680 News

Latest News and Bulletin Updates

January 2026

Issue # 7



ROTARY SADDLE SUMMARY OF THE MONTH

DG Deb's letter	
Page.....	1-2
Club news	
Page.....	3-11
RYLA	
Page.....	12
Volunteer	
Page.....	12
President Elect Training Session	
Page.....	13
DG Deb's Visit schedule	
Page.....	14-15
Membership Stats	
Page.....	16-17
PolioPlus	
Page.....	18

*January
Theme:
Vocational
Service*



January is Vocational Service Month, a time to celebrate the skills, talents, and professions that Rotarians bring to their clubs and communities. Vocational Service reminds us that Rotary was founded on the belief that service through one's work builds trust, strengthens communities, and promotes high ethical standards. Across Rotary District 5680, Rotarians are living this ideal by

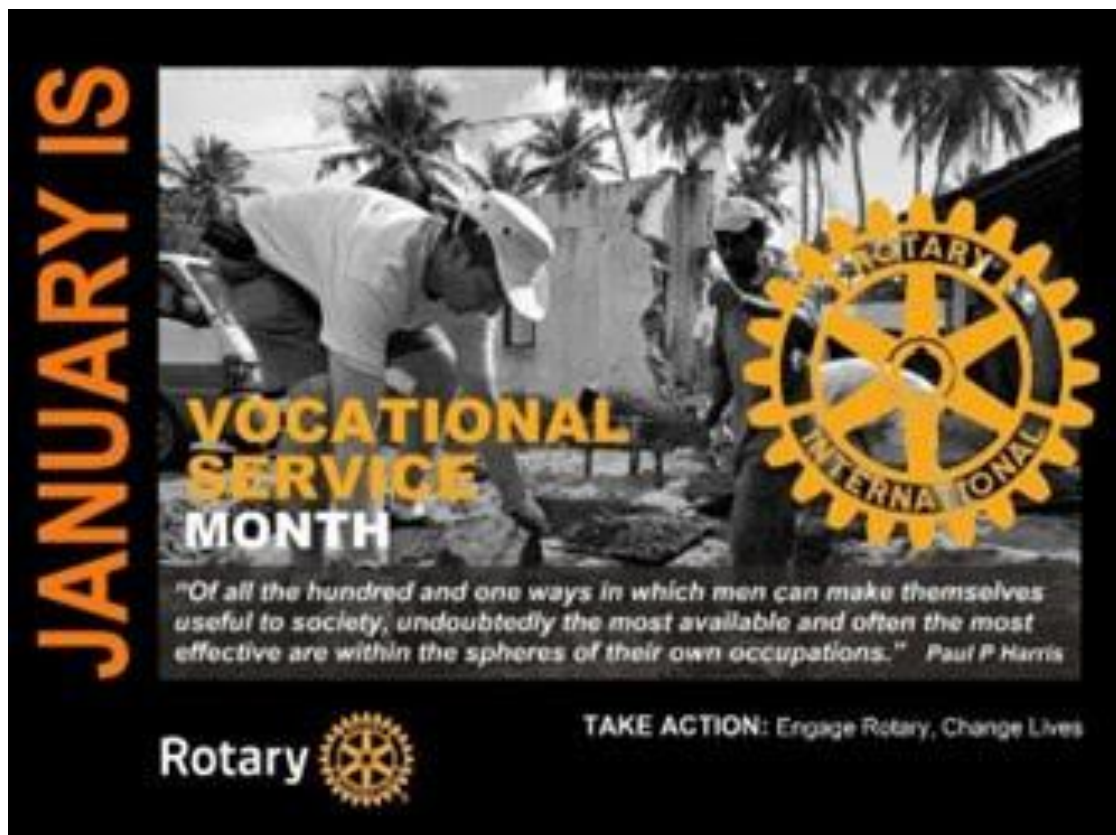
mentoring youth, supporting workforce development, and sharing professional expertise. As Rotarians, we must remember that we represent Rotary not only at meetings, but in our workplaces and communities every day. Let us continue to apply the Four-Way Test in all we do—asking if it is the truth, if it is fair to all concerned, if it will build goodwill and better friendships, and if it will be beneficial to all—using our vocations as a powerful way to unite for good.

Deb Minkler -

District Governor 2025-2026

Rotary District 5680

Atwood, KS Club



Club News from District 5680

Rotary Club of Colby Dictionary Presentation



Rotary Club of Colby Sr. Citizens Food Gift Bag Assembly Pics Thanks to those who assisted with presenting dictionaries and donating items for the gift bags. A total of 66 gift bags were assembled for meals on wheels recipients and low-income housing residents. Special thanks to **Jen Schoenfeld** and **Vernon Hurd** for coordinating these annual service projects!



DECEMBER 2025 STUDENT OF THE MONTH



MADISON HULL

Parents:
Nolan Hull
Shaly Niemeyer

SPONSORED BY:
COLBY ROTARY



Madison, a Senior at Colby High School, is the Colby Rotary Club's Student of the Month for December 2025. Throughout high school, Madison has maintained a 4.0 GPA in both her high school and Colby Community College classes. She was named as a CHS Student of the Month three times. Madison has served in leadership roles in Student Council, as Vice President of her class, and National Honor Society-Treasurer. She was a member of the Rotary Interact Club and has participated in softball, volleyball, and basketball. Her work experience has been gained through the Colby Recreation Department, Colby Aquatic Park, Maurices, and various community volunteer experiences.

For future career training, Madison plans to continue her education at Fort Hays State University to major in Health Science and Radiology.



Madison Hull, December Student of the Month for [Rotary Club of Colby](#)

[Rotary Club of Great Bend](#) introduces an awesome group of January Junior Rotarians. From left to right our club President-elect Taylor Smith. Allie Gerhardt, Alyssa McCauley, MacKenzie Lindberg, Zac Goodenough, Ava Kaiser and Rotarian host Jason Murray.



Congratulations to this fine group of GBHS seniors. We definitely wish you well in your future endeavors. These students are now qualified to apply for a Junior Rotarian scholarship that will be awarded in May.

Global Grant in Brazil (GG2466836) for a rural eye clinic

The Rotarians of [East Wichita Rotary Club](#) partnered with Rotarians in Birigui, Brazil to furnish a new Vision Clinic for rural community members in the state of Sao Paulo. This \$79,630 Grant will offer patient vision testing and care. Medical students will also receive eye care training to assist with staffing of the clinic. Purchased equipment will include computers, specialty ophthalmic testing machines, furniture, air conditioners and supplies.

This grant was a collaborative effort between Rotary Club Birigui as Host Club and East Wichita Rotarians as International Project Sponsor. Funding for this project came from individual East Wichita Rotarians, Rotary Club of Jackson Hole (Wyo) members as well as Rotary's World Fund, represented by District Designated Funds (DDF). Two Brazilian Districts (4470 and 4480), District 5440 (Wyo-Colo)

and our District 5680 provided DDF. This project represents Rotary Foundation dollars at work to benefit a rural community in need of the latest medical technology and equipment for the

community's poor population where such a clinic did not exist.



The [Russell Rotary Interact](#) at the monthly club meeting, packed "Birthday Bags" for our local food pantry. Each bag contains a foil pan, cake mix, frosting, and candles.



Happy Birthday to Rotarian John Prigmore! 🎂100 years young!!!! And a Rotarian since 1963 💙💛 Thank you SO much, John, for all that you've done for Rotary and El Dorado. [Rotary Club of El Dorado](#)



District Governor
Elect for District
5680 Isaac

McNary, spent his
first day at
International
Assembly was
amazing. His
whole class from
our zones which



runs from Texas to Canada and represents 23 districts turned out for the opening social in our matching tartans! We were also able to grab the International President, Francesco, and past zone director Suzi Howe for a quick picture.



The **Rotary Club of Pratt** presented a \$150 check to Anita Twiner, director of the Hope Closet. Hope Closet is affiliated with Dealing Hope, a 501(c)3 organization. It is a Christian Clothing Bank that provides community members with the opportunity to receive clothing necessary for their daily walk in life.



The [Rotary Club of Pratt](#) President Amy Prater welcomed Pratt High School Students of the Month, Ryan Haas and Kian Helfrich. The students were introduced by Superintendent Tony Helfrich, and they discussed their activities and post-high school plans.

Members of the [Rotary Club of Winfield](#) are sorting children's books for a new literacy initiative that will stock five Little Free Libraries with bilingual and home-language titles in Spanish, Lao, and Chuukese. Beginning January 2026, these books will help families across Winfield read together and build strong early literacy skills, made possible through a Rotary District Grant and Friends of the Winfield Public Library support.





WITH A PURPOSE

As we step into 2026, we pause to reflect on the moments that defined the year behind us. Among them, one of the most powerful was witnessing our community come together with a shared commitment to support students and ensure that no child goes hungry.

This spirit of collaboration was powerfully demonstrated through the first annual "Garage Sale with a Purpose: No Child Goes Hungry," hosted by the Derby Rotary Club, part of Rotary District 5680, in partnership with Derby Public Schools (USD 260) in Derby, Kansas. This inaugural event in June 2025 was designed to address a growing and critical need within our community: food assistance for students.

Derby Public Schools serves more than 7,000 students, and over the past several years, the need for meal support has steadily increased. Recognizing that access to nutritious meals is foundational to student success, Rotary and district leaders came together to take action.

The response was extraordinary.

More than 700 individuals contributed to the effort through item and monetary donations, cleaning and organizing items, advertising, and volunteering countless hours. This community-wide initiative centered on a shared belief: no child should have to worry about where their next meal will come from. At the heart of supporting food for students, a Rotary member himself experienced food insecurities as a child. He didn't want any student to experience what he did as a child. The Rotary group embraced this important need throughout the years and this year brought a new event to raise awareness and funds.

The garage sale itself was thoughtfully organized and held to a high standard. Donated items were carefully prepared with hard surfaces cleaned and clothing washed before being placed on the sales floor. In addition to Rotary members and community volunteers, students played a meaningful role in the event. Students from our Project LIFE at Derby Transition Education Center (DTEC) Special Education Learning Program, a postsecondary transition program, gained valuable real-life experience by practicing life skills such as cleaning, organizing, and laundry. Students across multiple grade levels also volunteered through school clubs, Air Force JROTC at Derby High School, and athletic programs, including football and girls' basketball. In addition, students assigned to restorative work and community service participated by dedicating their time to support the effort.

Community partnerships further strengthened the effort. Representatives from the City of Derby, Derby Recreation Commission, McConnell Air Force Base, and numerous local

businesses volunteered their time and support, reinforcing the powerful impact of collaboration.

The majority of items at the garage sale were donation-based, with select larger furniture pieces and specialty items offered through a silent auction. The event coincided with Derby's city-wide garage sale held June 5-7, 2025, maximizing community participation. Then, following, in September 2025, a Fill-A-Bag event was hosted using remaining items, extending both the reach and impact of the original sale.

Together, these efforts raised an impressive \$41,672.87, with all proceeds directly supporting the Community Assistance Lunch Program, which provides meal funds for students who might otherwise go without. Throughout the sale, many attendees shared how inspiring it was to see so many people working together for such a meaningful cause, an affirmation of Rotary's mission in action.

Beyond the measurable impact, the event also strengthened relationships. Rotary members worked side by side throughout the planning and execution of the garage sale, sharing laughs, building camaraderie, and creating memories that will last a lifetime. The joy of service was evident, reminding all involved that meaningful work can also be deeply rewarding.

The impact extended well beyond fundraising. Remaining items continued to serve the community in thoughtful ways. Shoes were donated to the Derby High School Band's annual shoe fundraiser, helping offset student costs.

Clothing items supported several nonprofit community organizations, and a significant portion was shared with Paul B. Cooper Elementary.

At Cooper Elementary, remaining clothing donations were transformed into the "Cooper Boutique," hosted in the school's collaboration space. Families were invited to shop free of charge, with no limits on the number of items they could select. Offering both professional and leisure wear in a wide range of sizes, the boutique proved to be a tremendous blessing for families, especially as colder weather approached. The boutique was open during parent-teacher conferences and available to anyone in the community, providing dignity, choice, and support when it was needed most.

The Garage Sale with a Purpose showed the power of partnerships, what is possible when Rotary clubs, schools, students, families, and community partners unite around a common goal. Together, we made a meaningful difference, ensuring that students are supported, families have the resources they need, and hope is extended throughout the community.

GARAGE sale

Rotary Club of Derby



By Heather Bohaty
Rotary Club of Derby, Kansas President, District 5680
Superintendent of Derby Public Schools, USD 260





The dates are set! RYLA camp will be held May 26-29, 2026. RYLA is a youth leadership camp for high school Freshman- Junior students, hosted on the campus of Southwestern College in Winfield, KS.

A vertical poster for volunteer recruitment. At the top is the 'KS OK ROTARY DISTRICT 5680' logo, which includes a gear and a sun. Below this is the text 'we need volunteers' in large, bold letters. A list of committees is provided: Membership, Action Plan/Strategic Planning, and Polio Plus. Contact information for Deb Minker is in a blue box. A photo shows three people working on a laptop. The Rotary International logo is at the bottom left, and an inspirational quote is in a blue box at the bottom right.

KS OK
ROTARY DISTRICT 5680

we need volunteers

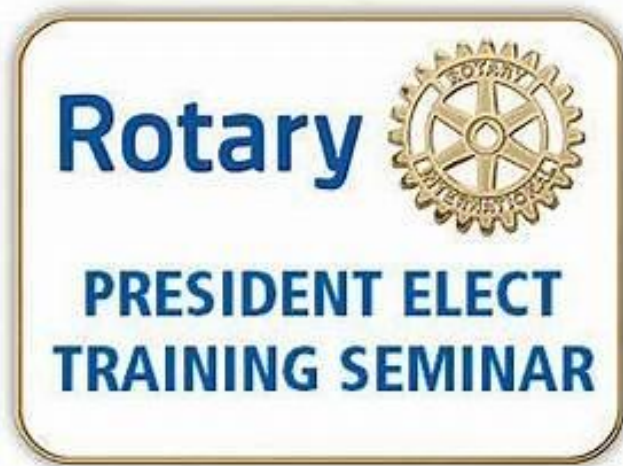
FOR THE FOOLLOWING COMMITTEES

- Membership
- Action Plan/Strategic Planning
- Polio Plus

CONTACT DEB MINKER AT
308-660-3647 OR EMAIL
DEBRDG2526@GMAIL.COM

ROTARY
INTERNATIONAL

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.



🌟 Save the Date: President-Elect Learning Session (PELS)

March 26–28, 2026 • Hyatt Regency Wichita

Get ready for one of the most energizing weekends of your Rotary year! PELS is coming—and you'll want your whole leadership line there to dream big, plan boldly, and build your 3-year action plan *together*.

💡 What to Expect:

- Fun, engaging conversations with club leaders from across **District 5710 and District 5680**
- Dynamic speakers who'll help you see the *big picture* of Rotary
- Fresh ideas for boosting your club's **public image**, engagement, and community visibility
- Creative strategies to **grow and retain membership**
- Plenty of chances to connect, collaborate, and spark new ideas with fellow Rotarians

📌 A Helpful Reminder:

Each club already pays for **one attendee** through district dues—so make sure your President-Elect (and ideally your full leadership line!) takes advantage of this invaluable training.

📅 **Registration opens soon—mark your calendars now!**

**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	February 5	Noon	Thursday
Beloit	February 9	Noon	Tuesday
Boise City, Oklahoma	February 4	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 22	Noon	Monday
Downs	Video	Noon	Tuesday
East Wichita	Video	Noon	Wednesday
El Dorado	Video	Noon	Wednesday
Ellinwood	Video	Noon	Tuesday
Ellis	October 22	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 15	Noon	Monday
Hays Sunrise	November 20	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	September 18	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	February 3	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, February 1, 2026.

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

*District 5680 Membership Report As of
December 31, 2025*

Club	7/1/2025	1/31/2026	NET GAIN
	MEMBERSHIP	MEMBERSHIP	2025- 2026
Abilene	53	49	(4)
Andover	18	20	2
Arkansas City	68	62	(6)
Atwood	24	24	0
Beaver	16	16	0
Beloit	30	30	0
Boise City	22	23	1
Cimarron	17	17	0
Clay Center	64	60	(4)
Colby	35	35	0
Concordia	26	18	(8)
Derby	55	54	(1)
Dodge City	30	32	2
Downs	7	0	(7)
East Wichita	67	62	(5)
E-Club	16	17	1
El Dorado	31	29	(2)
Ellinwood	13	13	0
Ellis	10	9	(1)
Garden City	22	21	(1)
Goodland	13	14	1
Great Bend	28	27	(1)
Guymon	23	26	3
Haskell County (Sublette)	16	17	1
Hays	52	51	(1)
Hays Sunrise	12	8	(4)
Hill City	7	9	2
Howard	10	10	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 2026 DISTRICT 5680

Hugoton	13	11	(2)
Hutchinson	86	83	(3)
Kingman	21	21	0
Kinsley	5	5	0
Liberal	32	32	0
Lyons	21	20	(1)
McPherson	27	26	(1)
Ness City	21	22	1
Newton	55	59	4
Norton	11	8	(3)
Oberlin	29	29	0
Osborne	9	9	0
Phillipsburg	44	36	(8)
Pratt	72	65	(7)
Russell	39	32	(7)
Salina	96	89	(7)
Sterling	13	12	(1)
Syracuse	18	15	(3)
Texhoma	8	9	1
Ulysses	16	18	2
Washington	31	29	(2)
West Sedgwick Co Sunrise	36	38	2
West Wichita	70	79	9
Wichita-Downtown	347	362	15
Wichita-Old Town	8	8	0
Winfield	60	56	(4)
TOTALS	1973	1926	(47)



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

To All District 5680 Clubs: It's time for all Clubs to report to the District your President-Elect for the 2026-2027 Rotary year. The PE should plan to attend PELS.

Save the Date: President-Elect Learning Session (PELS)
March 26-28, 2026 • Hyatt Regency Wichita



Let's Advocate, Donate & Educate to **END POLIO NOW & FOREVER!**

		Total	Total	Total	Total
Total Wild Polio cases	Year-to-date 2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
Globally	0	41	99	12	30
- in endemic countries:	0	41	99	12	22

2026 Total Polio Cases (0 Wild + 0 Variant) = 0
2025 Total Polio Cases (41 Wild + 222 Variant) = 263

2024 Total Polio Cases (99 Wild + 466 Variant) = 565
 2023 Total Polio Cases (12 Wild + 524 Variant) = 536
 2022 Total Polio Cases (30 Wild + 914 Variant) = 944

The Final Two Polio Endemic Countries

Pakistan No Wild Polio cases reported in 2026. Thirty-one Wild Polio cases were reported in 2025.

Afghanistan No Wild Polio cases reported in 2026. Ten Wild Polio cases were reported in 2025.

[Donate to End Polio Now](#)