

District 5680 News

Latest News and Bulletin Updates

March 2025

Issue # 9



DG Jeff's letter	
Page.....	1-2
Club news	
Page.....	3-8
District Conference 2025	
Page.....	9-10
Guatemala	
Page.....	11-12
Crisis Intervention Center Project	
Page.....	12-14
PETS	
Page.....	14-16
Myanmar Disaster	
Page.....	17-18
Rotary Young Professionals Forum	
Page.....	18-19
Rotarians Against Human Trafficking	
Page.....	20-21
Membership stats District 5680	
Page.....	22-23
PolioPlus	
Page.....	24

District Governor Jeff Horlacher's Letter

It is springtime, and the earth is experiencing another rebirth. Flowers are budding out, trees are leafing out, and birds are singing. Rotarians are working on outdoor projects, installing Little Free Libraries, planting trees and some have already returned from Guatemala having installed water filter systems, cook stoves and helped to paint schools, See Gloria's article in this newsletter.



Andrea Kraus held the Town Hall meeting via Zoom to discuss the Council on Legislation to be held soon. This is where changes are made to the Rotary International bylaws and to how we function. One delegate from each

district will be eligible to attend. It is an interesting process. The document we reviewed is 208 pages long, some proposed changes make good sense; some seem to not be needed or as important. We are open to all comments and questions.

Are you reading your Rotary magazine? It is an inspiring source of information about Rotary and what we are doing throughout the world. Keep your old issues and a library of what we do, and to give to prospective members. It is also a good reference when preparing programs for your local club.

There have been several natural disasters already this spring, and severe weather season is just beginning. There are opportunities for us to reach out and help after these occurrences. The Los Angeles fire burned through two Rotary districts.

The Rotary Foundation has Disaster Response Grants available, and that is a part of where your donation to the Foundation goes. [Rotary Disaster Response Grants | My Rotary](#) I am proud to be a part of an organization that is part of the solution.

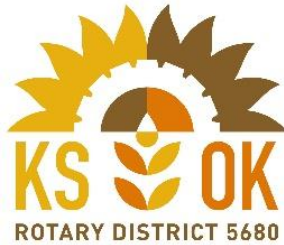
World Immunization Week is April 24-30. We need to calmly encourage people to get vaccinated for a variety of illnesses. We are seeing a resurgence of measles in west Texas and New Mexico, and cases have been identified in southwest Kansas as well.

I ask all of you to help with Project Prom parties and safe celebrations after graduations. They keep our kids alive and healthy.

We continue to address the need for mental health awareness and access to therapy. We can help a great deal by addressing the stigma many associate with asking for help. All of us experience difficult times; it is part of life. I will keep you informed of some of the efforts in that area. Read Craig Poe's article in this issue of our newsletter.

Your Governor

Jeff Horlacher--District Governor--District 5680



Club news from across District 5680

The [Rotary Club of Washington](#) hosted an inter-District social. The event included a tour of Kansas Territorial Brewing and plans for more inter-District cooperation. Club attending included the [Rotary Club of Clay Center](#), the [Rotary Club of Marysville \(District 5710\)](#) and the [Rotary Club of Valley Heights \(District 5710\)](#).





Rotary Partnership to Improve Living Conditions in Honduras

A successful partnership between the [Rotary Clubs of Colby and Garden City](#) has led to a stove project in Honduras. The two clubs contributed \$4,500 to fund the installation of 164 new, efficient cookstoves in 4 remote villages. These stoves reduce the need for wood and improve health by cutting down on respiratory and eye problems caused by traditional stoves. The project, which began in 2024, is a collaboration with the Rotary Club of Danlí, Honduras, and the nonprofit organization [Proyecto Mirador](#). Recently, Patrick Toth from Colby Rotary together with Boyd Funk, visited the project site in Honduras and reported positive feedback, including improved business for a tortilla seller, and reduced smoke in people's homes. The two clubs are likely to continue supporting low-income families in the area



Boyd Funk (l) and Patrick Toth (m) presenting an appreciation award from



Since its inception in 2004, [Proyecto Mirador](#) has built over 300,000 stoves, serving over 1 million people in Honduras and Guatemala.

New stoves in Honduras



Since 1988, the Rotary Club of West Wichita has embraced a project with members building small bookshelves. When assembled, the bookshelves are delivered to 1st graders at Benton and Lawrence Elementary schools. Students are also given some small books and a set of stickers so they can personalize their very own bookshelves.



It's a small way to introduce these youngsters to the joy of reading. Over the decades, more than 4,000 bookshelves have been built and delivered. Many of the students recall seeing these bookshelves

with older siblings or even parents. Delivery day is always rewarding.

Rotary Club of Goodland supports the community hospital-based home delivery Meals-on-Wheels program. We do this for 2 weeks every 6 months. The delivery involves 2 routes. Each route has between 6-12 stops with usually 1-2 meals per stop -yes there is variability. These deliveries are prioritized to support those with mobility or nutritional issues or both. For some households, we might be the only person they see all day. The pictures of Bryce & David are for the 17th March, North and South routes.



The **Rotary Club of West Wichita** was the final stop on this year's District Governor's club visit schedule. Before our regular meeting, District Governor Jeff Horlacher took the



time to meet with our board, gaining insight into our club's activities and sharing valuable perspectives from across the District.





The [Rotary Club of Dodge City](#) sponsors the Free Little Library located at 2601 Central Ave, on the lower level of the Village Square Mall. During their spring break, Fatima Lorzano Lopez, who attends Scared Heart School, and Ximena Vicuna, Dodge City Middle School, stop to enjoy looking and reading through the books. Anyone may take a book or bring a book to share.

The B-29 Museum is this March's service initiative for the [Rotary Club of Pratt](#). The Museum is located at 82 Curran Road in Pratt and is open from 2 - 4 pm on Sundays or by appointment.



We are saddened to announce the passing of Past District Governor Odetta Glee Marietta at the age of 94. Odetta was the first woman District Governor of Rotary D5670 serving during 2000-2001.



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.

The conference will kick off on Friday night with a fun-filled evening at Thirstys, where we'll enjoy great food, laughter, and the chance to connect with fellow Rotarians. More details will be shared soon, so stay tuned!

Throughout the weekend, we will feature inspiring speakers who will share their insights and experiences, along with engaging sessions designed to enhance our skills and knowledge as Rotarians. This is a perfect opportunity to learn, share, and grow together.

Don't miss out on this chance to connect with fellow members, expand your network, and foster new ideas that will benefit our communities.

We encourage you to reserve your hotel room now to ensure you have a comfortable stay during the conference. <https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/rooms> 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.



Rotary
PEOPLE OF ACTION

Now Hiring -
**District 5680
Executive
Secretary**

- Flexible hours - avg 10 hrs wk
- Pay \$675 Month
- Strong organization and communication skills required
- Adept at scheduling
- Knowledgeable about district policies
- Formulate meeting agendas and zoom meetings
- Attend key training events

KS OK
ROTARY DISTRICT 5680

Send Resume With
References To
rotary5680@gmail.com
316-772-6447

Full job description at rotary5680.org
Deadline April 15

Guatemala Project—Districts 5680 & 5710

Rotary members of District 5680 and 5710 traveled to Panajachel, Guatemala. While they were there, they installed 75 water filtration systems, 15 cook stoves, conducted well baby checks and elderly checks in the home, painted schools, and provided school supplies and medical supplies to the local clinic. Both Kansas Districts have been working for several years to help build the clinic, install cook stoves and to provide clean water to all the indigenous Indians of this area.

Gloria Homeier

Past District Governor

District 5680

785-483-1139





Breaking Barriers: Reducing Mental Health Stigma & Building a Lifeline

At High Plains Mental Health Center, we believe mental health is just as important as physical health, yet stigma remains one of the biggest barriers preventing people from seeking the care they need. If we want to build a stronger, healthier community, we must change that narrative together. Through open conversations, greater awareness, and immediate access to care, we can ensure that no one feels alone in their time of crisis.

A crucial part of this effort is our Crisis Intervention Center (CIC) project—a facility designed to be a beacon of hope for those experiencing mental health crises. Unlike emergency rooms, which often lack the resources to provide specialized behavioral health care, the CIC will be a dedicated space where individuals in crisis can receive immediate stabilization, intervention, and connection to ongoing support. This facility will include voluntary and involuntary care options as well as sobering beds, addressing urgent community needs in a way never before possible in our region.

High Plains Mental Health Center currently serves 20 counties in Northwest Kansas, and the CIC will extend its reach even further. With no facilities like this in the western half of the state, it will provide life-saving care to individuals from an even broader area, filling a critical gap in mental health crisis services.

To bring this vision to life, we need your help. While we've made significant progress in planning and initial fundraising, securing the final funds to complete construction and launch operations remains a high priority. We are actively applying with several foundations, but additional community backing is essential.

Your support can truly make a difference. By investing in the CIC, you are not only saving lives but also helping alleviate the strain on emergency departments and law enforcement. This facility will serve as a critical turning point for individuals in crisis, providing them with the specialized care they need in a compassionate and structured environment. For many, this center will be the light in their darkest hour—a place where hope is restored, and life-saving care is just a step away.

Please consider joining us in this effort. Whether you choose to advocate, donate, or connect us with potential funding sources, your involvement will create a lasting impact. Together, we can break the stigma surrounding mental health and ensure that when someone reaches out for help, there is a place ready to respond.

To learn more or to contribute, please visit www.donatehighplains.com/crisis-intervention-center. Thank you for standing with us on this mission.

Craig Poe
Executive Director
High Plains Mental Health Center



PETS

Focus on Service and Community Well-Being

Dear Rotary Family,

I hope this message finds you all well and energized after our recent PETS gathering. It was truly a wonderful experience, and I am excited about the opportunity to serve as your District Governor. Together, we will make a significant impact in our communities through dedicated service projects.

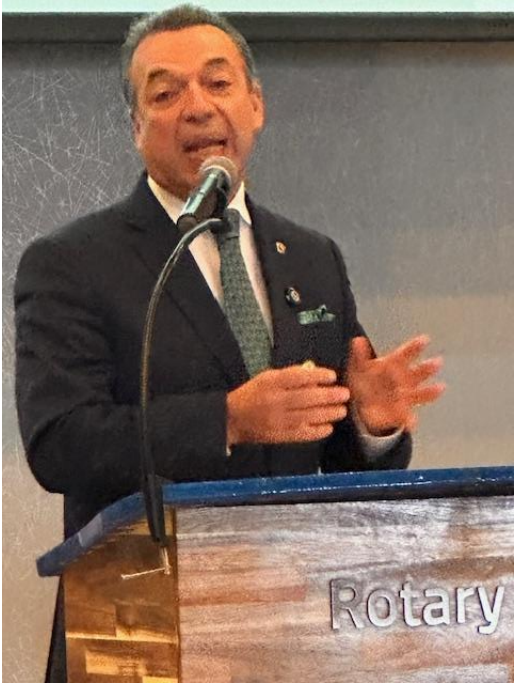
This year, our focus will be on two critical areas: enhancing our service projects and addressing the pressing issue of bullying among both children and adults. Bullying can have lasting effects on individuals and communities, and as Rotarians, we have the power to foster a culture of respect, kindness, and support.

I encourage each of you to think about how your clubs can contribute to these initiatives. Whether it's through community events, educational programs, or partnerships with local organizations, every effort counts. Let's work together to create a positive environment where everyone feels valued and safe.

I look forward to collaborating with all of you in the coming months. Together, we can make a difference!

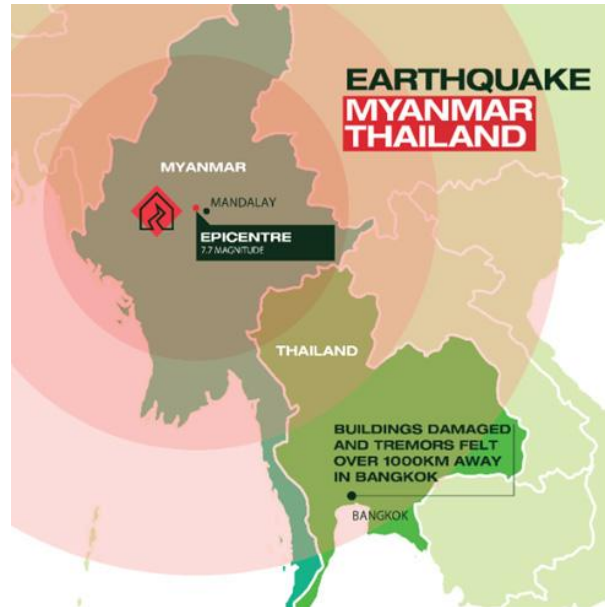
Deb Minkler,
DGE 5680





The Crisis in Myanmar and Thailand

Myanmar and Thailand were struck by a devastating 7.7 magnitude earthquake, causing widespread destruction. The earthquake, which occurred at 06:20 GMT on Friday, 28th March, was followed by a significant aftershock of 6.4M. Tremors were felt as far as China, with the epicenter in central Myanmar. More than six million people experienced intense tremors, leading to buildings reduced to rubble, missing persons, and destroyed homes. Thousands are now displaced and in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.



Both Myanmar and Thai authorities have declared states of emergency and requested international aid. Vulnerable people in these countries are homeless and in dire need of emergency shelter. They need your support.

ShelterBox's Response

ShelterBox has been in contact with Rotary leaders in Myanmar and Thailand. A team is deploying to Thailand to coordinate efforts and determine how best to support those affected by the earthquake. Your support is crucial in making this response possible. Our priority in these early stages is search and rescue, and we anticipate significant damage closer to the epicenter in Myanmar.

Why Support ShelterBox?

With over 25 years of experience, ShelterBox is an expert in providing emergency shelter after disasters. We have responded to dozens of major earthquakes including Morocco, Türkiye, Syria, Nepal, Japan, Haiti, and several Southeast Asia countries after the 2004

earthquake and resulting tsunami. We have provided shelter to over 3 million people. We won't stop until we see a world where no one goes without shelter after a disaster.

Your help is vital

Please consider donating today. In these uncertain times, your support is more valuable than ever. Your generosity can make a significant impact on the lives of those affected by this crisis and around the world. You can help equip people with essential emergency aid items, enabling them to survive and rebuild their lives. Thanks to the kindness of our supporters, we can assist people in places like Gaza, Mozambique, Yemen, Burkina Faso, and many more.

Your generosity makes a world of difference, thank you for caring,

Renee E Brouse

Rotary Relations Associate, ShelterBox

<https://www.shelterboxusa.org/myanmar-appeal/>

Rotary Young Professionals Forum



The **Rotary Young Professionals Forum** will take place June 13 and 14, 2025, in Ensenada, BC, Mexico, for Zones 25A, 25B, and 29. This Forum aims to identify and prepare future leaders for our organization at the club, district, and regional levels, focusing on three fundamental pillars: **People, Planet, and Purpose**.

We are inviting young Rotarians and Rotaractors aged 40 and under from clubs and districts within Zones 25 and 29. The event will be conducted in both Spanish and English and will feature international external speakers.

There is more information on the Zones 25B & 29 website: <https://zones25b-29.org/Stories/rotary-young-professionals-forum-june-13-14>

Rotary International comes to North America

Make Calgary the first of many conventions

We hear it over and over from members: Everyone needs to experience the **[Rotary International Convention](#)** at least once.



Rotarians Against Human Trafficking (RAHT)

A lot of exciting things have happened with the Rotarians Against Human Trafficking (RAHT) Committee and ICT SOS since the January newsletter. On March 27, 2025, ICT SOS had a soft launch of their new building (pictures) called *Our Place: A Safe Space for Survivors, Built on Hope and Healing*. The goal of the soft launch was to bring awareness and increase involvement.



There are now four subcommittees' Rotarians can get involved with through Zoom meetings. Communications: Meets every other Thursday at 2:00 pm (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86938863651>). Volunteers: Meets every other Thursday at 9:00 am (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86817484468>). Funding: Meets every other Tuesday at 9:00 am (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89338549848>). Events: Working on setting time (can email Shelby Boso at shelby@ictsos.org).

On top of the over \$300,000 raised previously, another \$65,000 in donations were raised. ictsos.org/give/our-place

An Amazon wish list has been set up for ICT

SOS: (https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/IRDC70TS7S1V/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex)

And future dates have been scheduled:

- April 10, 2025: a screening of *Uncharitable* to discuss how restraints hurt non-profits (<https://ictsos-bloom.kindful.com/e/uncharitable-screening->)
- April 26, 2025 from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm: Workday at ICT SOS (<https://volunteer.bloomerang.co:443/web-admin/app/#/shift-selection?k=tyl9o03alq2um9>)
- May 8, 2025 from 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm: ICT SOS Open House (<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/ictsos/event/ourplaceblockparty/>)

- May 17, 2025 from 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm: Workday at ICT SOS (<https://volunteer.bloomerang.co:443/web-admin/app/#/shift-selection?k=tyl9o03alg2um9>)

To date, either in the RAHT Committee or through activities such as volunteering, the Clubs involved have included [Andover](#), [Derby](#), [East Wichita](#), [West Sedgwick County Sunrise](#), [West Wichita](#), [West Wichita Satellite Club](#), [West Wichita Interact Club](#), [Wichita Downtown](#), and [Wichita Old Town](#).



District 5680 Membership Report As Of March 31, 2025

Club	7/1/2024	3/31/2025	NET GAIN
	MEMBERSHIP	MEMBERSHIP	2024-2025
Abilene	55	53	(2)
Andover	20	19	(1)
Arkansas City	68	63	(5)
Atwood	24	22	(2)
Beaver	17	16	(1)
Beloit	37	33	(4)
Boise City	18	21	3
Cimarron	18	16	(2)
Clay Center	63	63	0
Colby	44	45	1
Concordia	25	26	1
Derby	58	57	(1)
Dodge City	32	34	2
Downs	9	7	(2)
East Wichita	64	69	5
E-Club	16	16	0
El Dorado	29	34	5
Ellinwood	17	13	(4)
Ellis	8	10	2
Garden City	28	25	(3)
Goodland	13	13	0
Great Bend	28	29	1
Guymon	36	31	(5)
Haskell County (Sublette)	17	16	(1)
Hays	56	53	(3)
Hays Sunrise	12	12	0
Hill City	7	7	0
Howard	9	11	2
Hugoton	14	13	(1)
Hutchinson	90	86	(4)



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

MARCH 2025 DISTRICT 5680

Kingman	21	21	0
Kinsley	5	5	0
Liberal	34	34	0
Lyons	24	23	(1)
McPherson	27	27	0
Ness City	23	12	(11)
Newton	59	55	(4)
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	100	2
Sterling	17	13	(4)
Syracuse	19	19	0
Texhoma	12	7	(5)
Ulysses	18	18	0
Washington	32	32	0
West Sedgwick Co Sunrise	37	35	(2)
West Wichita	63	75	12
Wichita-Downtown	342	344	2
Wichita-Old Town	10	10	0
Winfield	58	58	0
TOTALS	2020	2009	(11)

Together, We End Polio



Fellow Rotarians,

I have said it before, let me reiterate it now. Let us not grow weary in our fight to eradicate Polio from the earth. The last 35 years of Rotary's involvement in the fight to end polio has been a rollercoaster of incredible achievements and disappointing setbacks, but every setback has been a met with a renewed vigor. We are so close, let us cross the finish line together as Rotarians!

In 2024 there were 99 reported cases of Wild Polio Virus, so far in 2025 we have only had 7. The Global Polio Eradication Initiative, of which Rotary is a leading partner, is continuing to work to find new ways to distribute vaccines and build trust in communities in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Every day, workers in these countries literally risk their lives to pursue this goal. The very least we can do is support them with our donations.

You can join the fight and lend your voice to this cause by becoming a member of the PolioPlus Society here. <https://forms.gle/9CKkKhr8urrxoVUu6>

If you are interested in learning more about End Polio Now, or would like me to do a presentation for your club, I can be reached at isaac@rotarykiltguy.com

Bravely Onward
Isaac McNary
District Governor Nominee
Chair – PolioPlus Committee