

District 5680 News

Latest News and Bulletin Updates

May 2025

Issue # 11



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District Governor

Jeff Horlacher's Letter

This year I have emphasized the Magic of Rotary, our theme, and making our clubs and District Irresistible. And, I have encouraged us all to remember last year's theme, Create Hope in the World. I was a clinical psychologist for nearly 20 years and remain sensitive to mental health issues and to the mental health of our clubs and district. Our nation is experiencing increased challenges as people find they are lonely, feel isolated, and not able to adequately address these issues in themselves and others to restore happiness, joy, and contentment in life. I want to join each



of you in District 5680 in addressing these issues, and to help ourselves, and friends and family. Last Sunday one of our local family practice physicians gave the sermon while our pastor was on vacation. I appreciated what Dan had to say about loneliness. Yes, that was the title of his sermon. It struck a chord with me. He referenced the 2023 Surgeon General's Advisory Paper (Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation). I glanced through it and would like to print it off and study it for better understanding and what we can do to improve our mental health and combat loneliness and isolation. However, it is 82 pages. Maybe I can have it bound!

Why are we lonely? Partially from technology. We can work from home, or remotely, but that creates isolation and eliminates spontaneous conversation. There is a lack of quality family time. 50% of our population reports a lack of a spiritual life. Lacking close social connections causes a 30% higher chance of death than someone with close friends(!) and is as dangerous as smoking 15 cigarettes a day.

Dr. Vivek Murthy, as Surgeon General for two different terms, suggested six pillars to advance social connection and address loneliness and isolation. We can work on all, but the sixth pillar can be addressed by each of our clubs. That is to cultivate a culture of connection. I have noticed the most vital and active clubs in our district are those that have fun together. Social times are scheduled and eagerly attended. I encourage each club to emphasize those times and begin having them again if you have dropped them from the schedule. I think that is something we lost during the pandemic, and we need to deliberately reintroduce. Cultivate values of kindness, respect, service, and commitment to one another.

How can you serve as a Rotarian (a special human being) to make your community a little stronger? Answer the phone when a friend or acquaintance calls, share a meal together, take a walk together. A friend of mine related

several experiences he had as a school principal. One was a student who told him years later that "I was planning to kill myself until you invited me to join the wrestling team." As you can expect, he got misty eyed telling me that story. We never know when a bit of attention, recognition of another as a person with value, can make a world of difference. I was privileged to attend the Salina club's meeting to celebrate their year, to thank members who had served on the board, and to celebrate their achievements and new members. That would be good for all clubs to do.

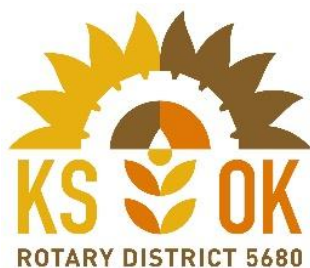
Next year, Deb Minkler's emphasis will be on bullying. She has a powerful story about that. Addressing loneliness and isolation can go a long way in resolving that painful experience.

We are rapidly nearing the end of the Rotary year. What would you like to get done this year? Give to the Rotary Foundation? Easily done; here is a link: [Donate to the Foundation](#) How are your club goals? Does your club qualify for the Rotary Citation? Look and see. The goals can still be adjusted!

We are working on a survey to learn about member satisfaction for the district and for each club. Please, fill it out, and we will give feedback to each club and to the Executive Committee of the District, so we can learn our strong points and deficits. [Member Satisfaction Survey](#)

Your Governor

Jeff Horlacher--District Governor--District 5680



Club news from across District 5680

ROTARY CLUB OF SALINA AND WEST WICHITA TEAM UP TO PAINT A PLAYGROUND MAP AT MINNEAPOLIS, KS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Four members of the [Rotary Club of Salina](#) and 2 from the [Rotary Club of West Wichita](#) assisted with a group of High School students in Minneapolis to paint a new playground map at the elementary school. The junior high and high school students spend the day on community service projects planned and coordinated by the Senior Class. Thank you to DeAnn and Randy from West Wichita and Amanda Otto, Jessica Martin, John Hendrick, and Kyle Smith from Salina for helping with this project!



[The Rotary Club of West Wichita](#) Julie Butler, Kathy Collmann, John Oswald and Ed Frey met at Sedgwick County Extension Office to put together Kitchen Restore Kits for 16 families. The kits included pots, pans, baking dishes, dinnerware, glasses, coffee mugs, knives, forks, spoons, mixing bowls measuring cups, measuring spoons, dish towels, dish cloths, cutting boards etc. Each kit was unique in that it was made to meet the specific needs of each family.



The [Rotary Club of El Dorado](#) continues their water safety awareness today with visits to Blackmore Elementary. All of the first graders received their own copy of the Josh the Otter book, and Rotarians were able to read the book and talk about water safety with all the Pre-K through First graders. We also donated a copy of the book to the school library for the kids to access anytime.

Thanks to all the teachers and administrators who have helped us put this together, and thanks to Rotarians Mandi Hursh, Andrew Zimmer, and Isaac McNary for taking time out of the day to visit the school and hang out with the kids!



The **Rotary Club of Guymon** proudly presented a check for \$6,914 to the City of Guymon to support the Dale Park Revitalization Project! This contribution was made possible thanks to proceeds from our Winter 2024 Bingo Night and generous donations from the Guymon Enrichment Foundation and TCEC Operation Round-Up. We're incredibly proud to partner with our community to help build brighter, healthier public spaces.



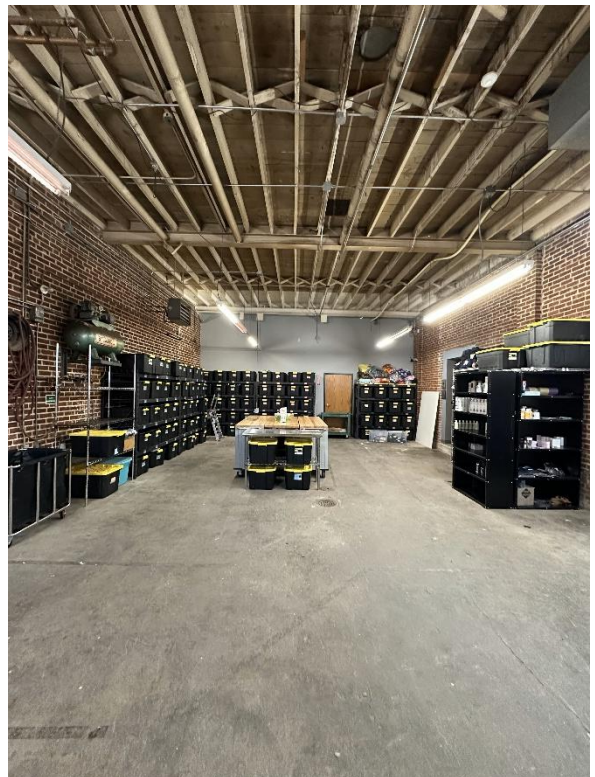
The **Rotary Club of El Dorado** congratulations to our 2024-2025 Scholarship recipients! We wish them and all graduates best wishes and amazing future



On Saturday, May 17th, Rotarians held a workday at ICT SOS in Wichita, KS, helping with some clean up and organization inside the building and painting parking lot lines outside. Through the Rotarians Against Human Trafficking Committee (RAHT) and other activities, which has had participation from [Andover](#), [Derby](#), [East Wichita](#), [West Sedgwick County Sunrise](#), [West Wichita](#), [West Wichita Satellite Club](#), [West Wichita Interact Club](#), [Wichita Downtown](#), and [Wichita Old Town Clubs](#), Rotarians continue to find opportunities to partner with ICT SOS throughout the year.

Donations/grants raised to date are just over \$400,000 of the \$5,000,000 goal. [Our Place Donations](#)

An Amazon wish list has been set up for ICT SOS: ([ICT SOS Wish List](#))



Upcoming events include a Rotary Volunteer Day on June 28th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at ICT SOS, 126 S. Ida, Wichita, KS 67211. This will include painting the Support Group Room, the primary safe space for victims to gather.

The [Rotary Club of Russell](#) and [E-Club of Heart of America Rotary Club](#) partnered together to establish a Dental Clinic in Talakag, Bukidnon, Philippines.

This Dental Clinic was made possible by a grant from District 5680 and both the Russell Club and E-Club contributions. When members Andrea Krug-Krauss and Gloria Homeier had traveled to the Philippines on an earlier mission they realized the need for a



dental clinic in the area since there was no affordable resource for dental care in this area. Keith Hopper from the E-Club was instrumental in securing the dental equipment needed and finding the building the house the clinic. This is a Children's Free Dental Clinic that will be accessible to all members in this community. It will not only offer dental care but also offer education on oral hygiene and encourage regular checkups for early detection of cavities.

**Ness
County
News**



Rotary Club of Great Bend hosted its annual Jr. Rotarian Luncheon on May 12, continuing a tradition of recognizing outstanding seniors from Great Bend High School. This partnership has been going strong for over 25 years. Each year, Great Bend High School guidance counselors work together to identify exceptional senior students to serve as Jr. Rotarians, with counselor Rachel Thexton coordinating the nomination process. Teachers are invited to nominate students, who then attend Rotary meetings throughout a designated month, typically in groups of four to six.



As part of DG Jeff Horlacher's service projects, he urged all clubs to add a Little Library to their community. [The Rotary Club of Washington](#) recently installed theirs at the City Park.

Rotary Club of Guymon donated to help fund the new playground. Working together to make a better community.



Rotarians from the **Rotary Club of Guymon** along with visiting Queens and GHS Rotary Interact helped prepare and serve the meal for the annual Rotary BBQ. A Guymon Pioneer Days tradition and fundraiser for the club. Funds from the fundraiser are used to purchase dictionaries for all third graders in Texas County.



The Rotary Club of Washington provided a child centered jungle themed environment to their local library that inspires curiosity and wonderment for children to explore reading and all the library has to offer. They established areas for individual, or group activities that welcomes children to sit quietly and read, use technology or interact with others in the library. Knowing that creativity is fueled by play, areas for creative play such as, a puppet theater and interactive computer tablets were provided. Children with special needs enjoy areas specially designed for them. All areas and furnishings express the jungle theme and incorporate the local school district tiger mascot and have appropriate finishes for children and safety regulations. This was done as part of a District grant plus \$10,000 provided by the Rotary Club of Washington.





The Rotary Club of Salina presented the Rotary Scholarship recipients! Congratulations!



Disaster Network of Assistance - Rotary Action Group Annual General Meeting

Zoom Info - NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Topic: Disaster Network of Assistance - Rotary Action Group Annual General Meeting
Time: Jun 17, 2024 08:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada) - (UTC - 04)

Join Zoom Meeting

Rotary Disaster Network Assistance ROTARY ACTION GROUP (()) LIVE WEBINAR

Disaster Network Assistance RAG presents
DISASTER RESPONSE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
"DISASTERS TEST US. OUR RESPONSE DEFINES US."
K R RAVINDRAN
Rotary International President 2015-16

PANNEL DISCUSSION

"2010 - Earthquake Haiti"
Barry Rasin
Rotary International President 2018-19

"2025 - Earthquake Myanmar"
PDG Jeson Lim
DG Special Representative Indo China, District 3350

"2015 - Earthquake Nepal"
Robert A. Stuart, Jr.
Rotary International Director 2005-07

PDG Keshav Kunwar
Team Leader, End Polio Now Coordinator 2017-20, South & South-East Asian Countries

TUESDAY, 13TH MAY 2025 | 6:00 PM IST | 8:30 PM SGT
8:30 AM EST | 7:30 AM CST

MEETING ID: 821 4855 5413
PASSCODE: 259552

Moderator
PAG Mike Terrelonge
Board Director (Rotary Caribbean Partnership) 2018-Present, District 7020

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82148555413?pwd=oMsacxllWNwgETMKRj1EfA3lFbSiFJ.1>

Meeting ID: 821 4855 5413
Passcode: 259552

Join Us for the 2025 District Conference: Wild West Connection!

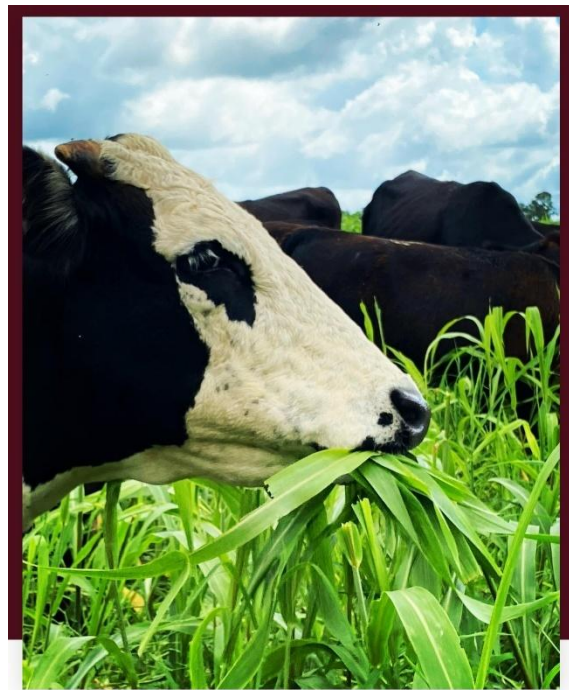
DGE Deb invites you to join us at the District Conference in Hays. Mark your calendars for an exciting weekend from October 17 to October 19, 2025, as we gather for the 2025 District 5680 Conference: Wild West Connection! This is an incredible opportunity for fellowship, learning, and networking, all 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 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.

Global Grant in Makhandha District 5680 Participant

Thank you District 5680 Rotarians for your generous \$25,000 District funding of our Global Grant in Makhandha (Grahamstown), East Cape of South Africa. This was the largest (max. \$400,000) Rotary Global Grant on the African continent in 2023 and is nearing completion.



We particularly thank Past District Governor Geri Appel and the D-5680 Foundation Committee Chaired by Donna Meier-Pfeifer for their support and belief in this



project. Donations came from nearly 100 individuals, clubs and Districts from all over the U.S., Canada, Brazil and South Africa. In particular, the Rotary Club of East Wichita and the Rotary Club of Jackson Hole (WY) were prominent in offering early funding.

To learn more about your exceptional Rotary project that remodeled 7 schools in the black township of Makhanda, see **photos and read** what the Rotary International staff had to say, at :

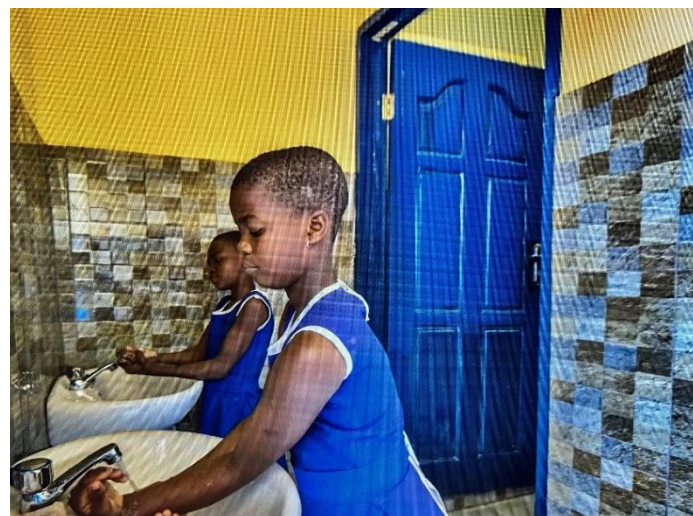
<https://www.rotary.org/en/audacious-request-transforms-south-african-schools>.

A professional video has been created by the project's International Sponsors of the Rotary Clubs of Grahamstown, S.A. You will learn from this incredible video how we are living our 2024-2025 theme: "The Magic of Rotary"



Find video link
at <https://youtu.be/t3WSBTwMrU0>

For more information,
Past District Governor Stuart Palmer of
East Wichita Rotary
StuRotary@Gmail.com



Rotary Young Professionals Forum

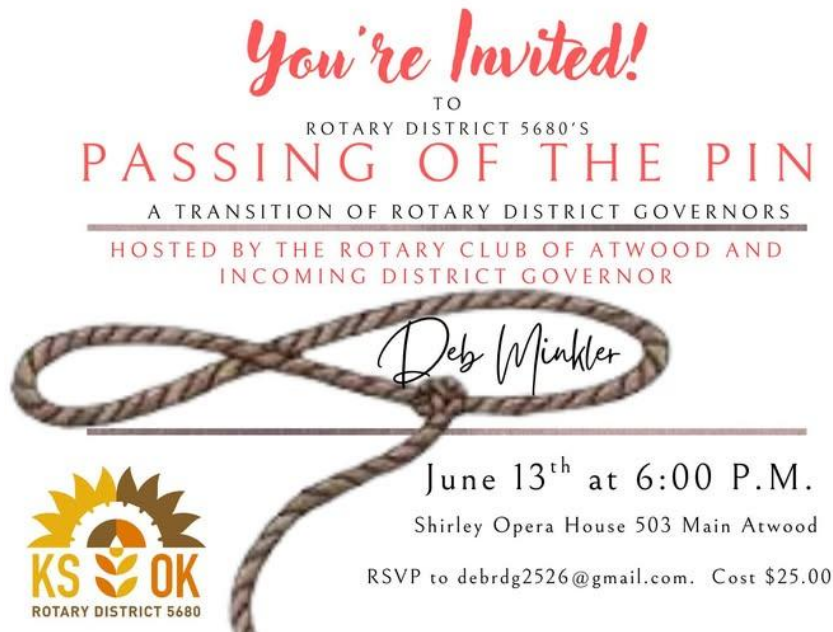


The **Rotary Young Professionals Forum** will take place June 13 and 14, 2025, in Ensenada, BC, Mexico, for Zones 25A, 25B, and 29. This Forum aims to identify and prepare future leaders for our organization at the club, district, and regional levels, focusing on three fundamental pillars: **People, 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: [Rotary Young Professionals Forum](http://www.rotary5680.org/)

**DGE Deb Minkler invites you to her
Passing of the Pin.**



Rotary International comes to North America

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



District 5680 Membership Report As Of May 31, 2025

Club	7/1/2024	5/31/2025	NET GAIN
	MEMBERSHIP	MEMBERSHIP	2024- 2025
Abilene	55	54	(1)
Andover	20	18	(2)
Arkansas City	68	69	1
Atwood	24	22	(2)
Beaver	17	16	(1)
Beloit	37	33	(4)
Boise City	18	22	4
Cimarron	18	17	(1)
Clay Center	63	63	0
Colby	44	48	4
Concordia	25	26	1
Derby	58	57	(1)
Dodge City	32	28	(4)
Downs	9	7	(2)
East Wichita	64	71	7
E-Club	16	16	0
El Dorado	29	32	3
Ellinwood	17	13	(4)
Ellis	8	10	2
Garden City	28	22	(6)
Goodland	13	13	0
Great Bend	28	29	1
Guymon	36	32	(4)
Haskell County (Sublette)	17	16	(1)
Hays	56	52	(4)
Hays Sunrise	12	12	0
Hill City	7	7	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

MAY 2025 DISTRICT 5680

Howard	9	11	2
Hugoton	14	13	(1)
Hutchinson	90	85	(5)
Kingman	21	21	0
Kinsley	5	5	0
Liberal	34	34	0
Lyons	24	22	(2)
McPherson	27	27	0
Ness City	23	20	(3)
Newton	59	55	(4)
Norton	10	11	1
Oberlin	30	30	0
Osborne	9	9	0
Phillipsburg	31	44	13
Pratt	71	73	2
Russell	38	40	2
Salina	98	100	2
Sterling	17	13	(4)
Syracuse	19	18	(1)
Texhoma	12	8	(4)
Ulysses	18	18	0
Washington	32	30	(2)
West Sedgwick Co Sunrise	37	35	(2)
West Wichita	63	75	12
Wichita-Downtown	342	350	8
Wichita-Old Town	10	10	0
Winfield	58	57	(1)
TOTALS	2020	2019	(1)



District 5680



www.rotary5680.org

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ldstoppel@gmail.com

Larry D. Stoppel

785-747-8526

End Polio Now

Rotarians,

As we approach the end of the Rotary year, let us not forget our mission and our commitment to the world to End Polio. While the number of cases reported so far this year is low, there was a recent detection of a Circulation Polio Variant in Germany which reminds us that "Until Polio is eradicated everywhere, it is a threat anywhere!"



Polio eradication is not a political issue; it is a measure of our humanity and care for the most vulnerable people in the world. I encourage you all to search your hearts and remember why Rotary took on the ostentatious goal of ending Polio worldwide, the children. We have the opportunity to transcend the issues that divide and come together on something truly incredible!

Our district has a PolioPlus Society, a group of members who have voiced their commitment to End Polio Now by pledging to donate at least \$100 a year to EPN. We are currently 115 members, we would love to see that grow. You can sign up easily online at [Polio Plus Society](#)

Yours in Rotary Service
Isaac McNary
DGN - PolioPlus Chair.
isaac@rotarykiltguy.com