Rotary Across the Heartlands

– CONNECTING ROTARIANS ACROSS KANSAS/OKLAHOMA

--NEWS, EVENTS, AND STORIES-
FROM DISRICT 5680

District Spotlight



Andrea Krauss-Rotarian of the Year

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS PHOTOS FROM THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE!



Special Thanks to
Bob Obee - Official Photographer!

UPCOMING EVENTS

ROTARY 115

Celebrating 115 years of Rotary in Kansas
Orpheum Theater
5PM - 9PM Nov. 16, 2026

PELS

President Elect Learning Seminar
Double Tree Wichita
April 15-17, 2027

A Serious Case of SOMO!

Most of us have heard of FOMO (Fear of Missing Out), but I genuinely hope that some of you are suffering from an accute case of SOMO (Sadness of Missing Out) after not making it to our District Conference this year! We worked hard to make this year's DisCon a fun and transformitive experience. Don't believe me, just check the pictures!

Don't worry, if the SOMO is hitting hard, you can still glean some benefit from the work we put in. I am excited about some incredible opportunities that we are making available to our clubs, including **Suspenders4HOPE** (page 2), and **Josh the Baby Otter** (page 3), and an opportunity to **Celebrate 115** years of Rotary in Kansas (page 3)! Hearing about great projects and inspiring conferences is one thing, but experiencing the magic of Rotary firsthand is where the real spark happens.

Let me be clear: ***Rotary was never meant to be a spectator sport.*** It isn't just about putting on a badge once a week, eating lunch, and listening to a speaker. It's about rolling up our sleeves, locking arms, and stepping out into our communities to make a tangible difference. We call ourselves ***People of Action***, but "action" isn't just a label—it's a verb, a mindset, and a daily commitment to put *Service Above Self*.

Whether it's bringing life-saving water safety lessons to preschoolers with Josh the Baby Otter, standing up to support mental wellness with Suspenders4HOPE, or simply lending a hand to a neighbor in need, every single one of us has the power to change a life. When we show up fully—with passion, purpose, and a whole lot of fun—we don't just change our communities; we transform ourselves.

So, let this be your official invitation to dive all the way in. Don't let SOMO get the best of you next time! Pick a project, raise your hand, get involved with your club, and let's show Kansas and Oklahoma what Rotary in action really looks like.

Isaac McNary - District Governor
isaac@rotarykiltguy.com

Create Lasting Hope in Your Cub!

Mental health and wellness touch every family, workplace, and community across our district, and as Rotarians, we step up when our neighbors need us most. That is why District 5680 is excited to introduce a special opportunity for your clubs to partner with Suspenders4Hope, an inspiring, evidence-based program designed to break the stigma surrounding mental health, foster open conversations, and prevent suicide. Suspenders are a visible tool for support–a bold, uplifting reminder that we are here for one another and that no one has to carry their weight alone. By bringing this movement to our clubs, we are equipping members with practical training and life-saving resources to create safer, more supportive communities throughout Kansas and Oklahoma.

You can get involved in just 3 easy steps.

1.

Sign up to pack Hope Kits in your club.

SIGN UP HERE!

2.

Pack the Hope Kits

3.

Distribute the Kits to your community and Create Lasting Hope!

SUSPENDERS4HOPE®
WESUPPORTU

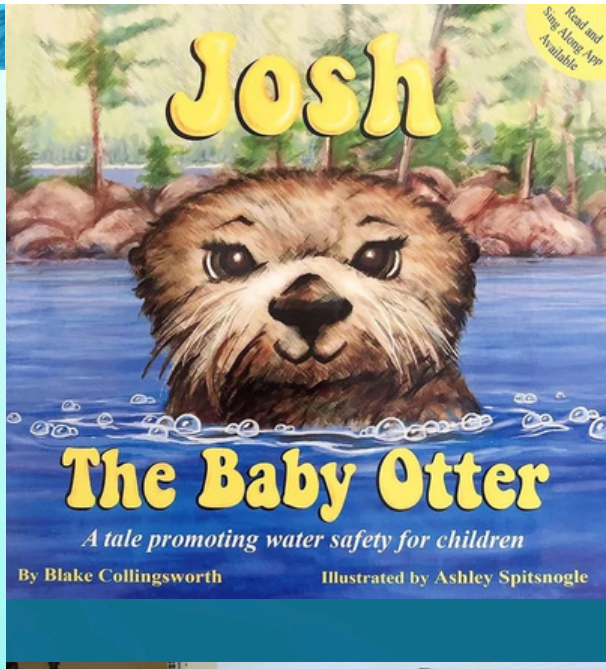
Introducing
Josh The Otter
Water Safety for Children

Drowning remains one of the leading causes of accidental death in young children, but together we can change that trajectory in our communities. That is why District 5680 is highlighting the Josh the Baby Otter Water Safety Project–a fun, engaging, and life-saving initiative dedicated to teaching early childhood water safety.

Through interactive storybooks, fun otter mascots, and simple lessons this program empowers grade schoolers with the habits they need to stay safe around pools, lakes, and rivers.

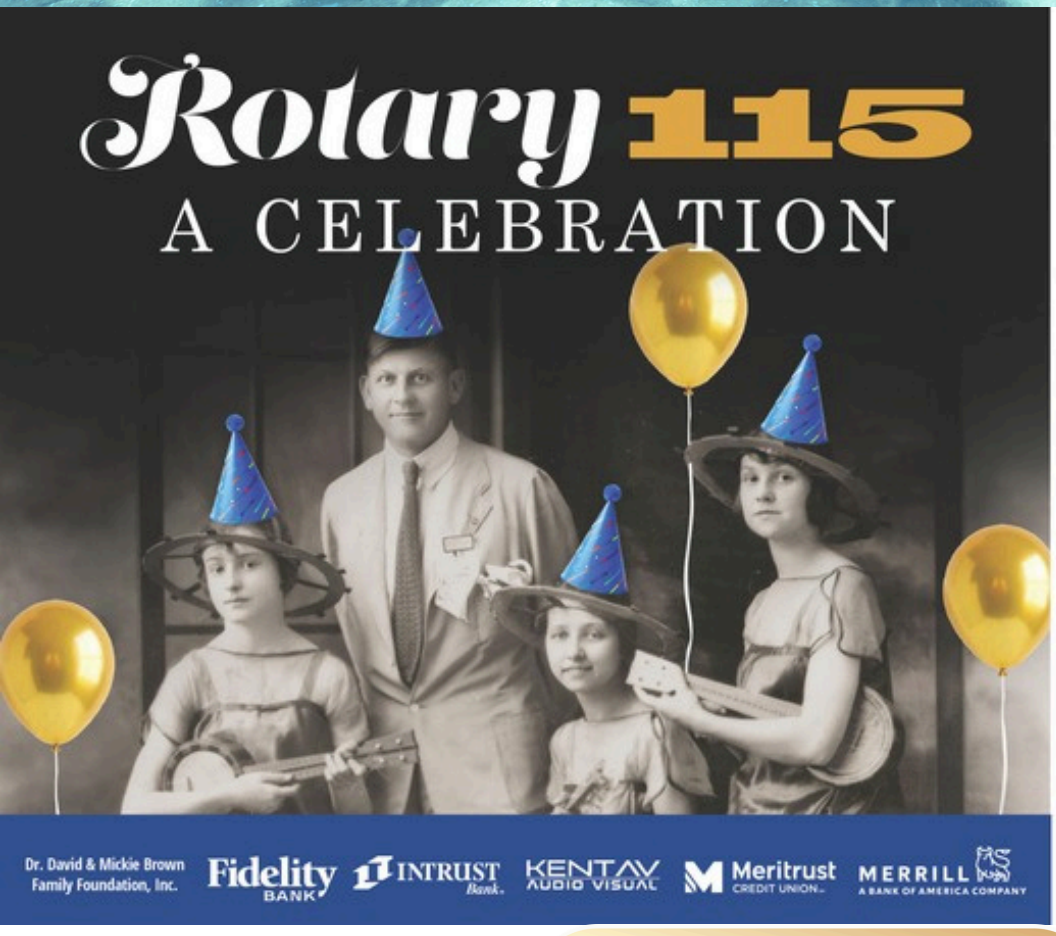
By bringing Josh the Otter into our local schools, libraries, and community events, our clubs can take direct action to protect our youngest neighbors, prevent tragedies, and bring a splash of fun to water safety education across Kansas and Oklahoma.

LEARN MORE!





Clay Center President Jacob Lohrmeyer



November 16th

5-6:30 pm
Birthday Party
Ruffin Building Atrium

7-9 pm
Lonnie McFadden Concert
Orpheum Theatre

RSVP

Downtown Rotarians, bring your plus one for free! Kansas Rotarians and any additional guests are welcome for $25.

RSVP HERE

Can't Stop WON'T STOP!

The reports keep coming and rankings are changing fast! An incredible 115 friends have been introduced to Rotary over the last 2 months! That is a good number, but unfortunately it represents only 1 friend for every **16** members in our district. If you are part of the 1,822 people who **HAVEN'T** invited a friend yet... ***What are you doing with your life?!?*** Rotary is the best part of my life and I want to share it with all my friends! I hope you all feel the same way!

We have heard your concerns!

Some Clubs meet every week, some clubs only meet 2 or 3 times a month, how is it fair to rank clubs when some clubs have more opportunities to invite friends? We are working out how to rank the clubs not only on the number of friends, but also on the number of meetings held. We want everyone to have fun with the challenge, but we also want to make sure it is FAIR to all concerned!

REPORT NOW!

OCTOBER Rankings

1ST Colby

2ND Old Town

3RD Guymon

FALL 2026

MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE

BRING A FRIEND!

SEP. 1 – DEC 31, 2026

- ☑ Invite a Friend to Visit Your Club
- ☑ Track the Number of Friends who visit
- ☑ Report the Numbers to the District

WIN BIG FOR YOUR CLUB

- ☑ Winning Club gets $1,000 Project Cash!
- ☑ Receive the "Friendliest Club Award"
- ☑ Winner based on Friends Per Capita! Any Club has a chance!



MORE INFORMATION
rotary5680.org/page/membership-challenge

DGE Notes

SERVING AS PRESIDENT WAS A HIGHLIGHT OF MY ROTARY JOURNEY

Too often, clubs struggle to fill leadership roles, or we hear people joke about "missing a meeting and ending up president." But serving as club president isn't a chore—it's an incredible honor. My two years as president (including navigating our club through the challenges of the pandemic) brought me a deep sense of pride and were a true highlight of my Rotary experience.

Are you ready to experience that same sense of accomplishment?

Leading your club to live out Service Above Self is uniquely fulfilling, and you won't be doing it alone. Comprehensive training and support are available every step of the way.

Yours in Service,
Amy Lash Esau, DGE



Old Town Rotary Club experiencing the WSU Tech/Goodwill Mobile IT Learning Lab 9/24/2018 - my first year as president

Your Next Steps:

- **Raise Your Hand:** Let your club know you're willing to serve as president, president-elect, or president nominee.
- **Save the Date:** Mark your calendar for the **President-Elect Leadership Seminar (PELS),** happening **April 15–17, 2027**, in Wichita. (Part of the training mentioned above.)
- **Meet the Deadline:** Current Presidents, submit your club's President-Elect to Rotary International by December 30th. Doing so enters both of you into a drawing for a $25 Russell Hampton gift certificate!

DISTRICT CLUB NEWS

A Night in TUSCANY - Night for Good

Friends of the **Rotary Club of West Wichita** gathered on 4 October for an evening of fun, fellowship, and fundraising. Dr. Mike Ludlow was the auctioneer, using his best American-Italian accent while dressed as a Cardinal. Funds benefited the club's charitable works throughout the community.

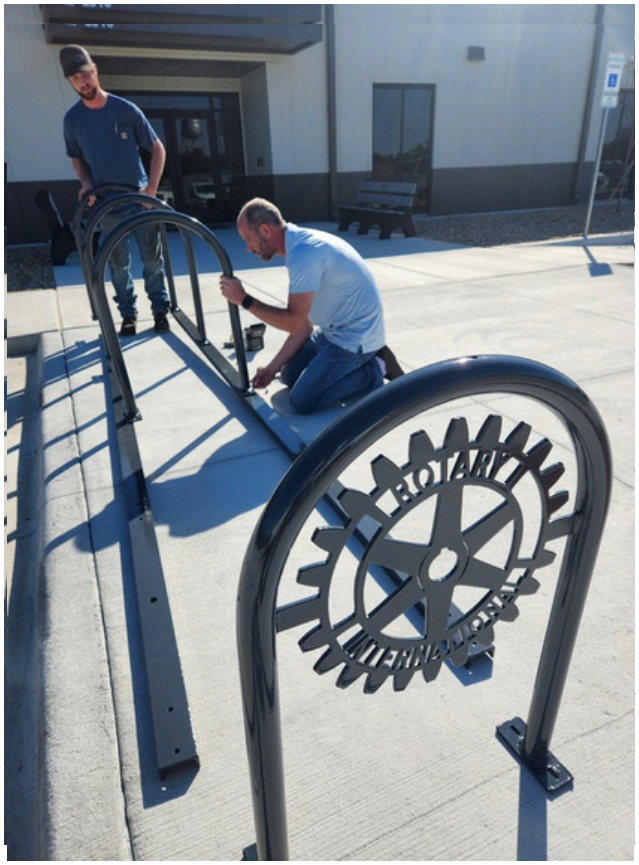








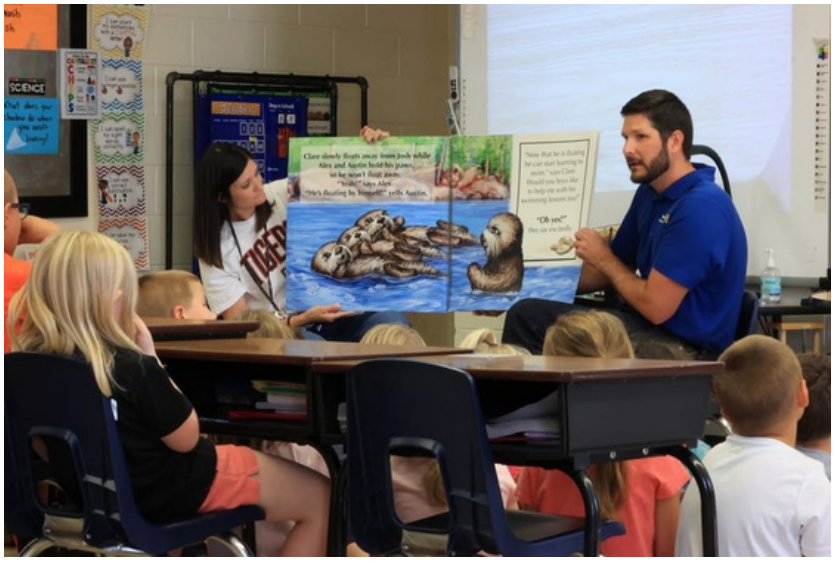




The Rotary Club of Clay Center participated in the local fundraising Match Day, 8 October, to sponsor a new bike rack for their community center - named the 'C4 Facility'.

On the 9th of October, the First graders had a special visit from members of the **Rotary Club of Clay Center** who presented "Josh the Baby Otter" water safety program. Each student also received a copy of the book and a coloring book.







The Satellite Club of West Wichita enjoyed giving back at the Ronald McDonald House! Members hosted a cookout for families and enjoyed spending time together. A special thank you to Heather Harrison for donating corn hole boards and bocce balls for families to enjoy. We're grateful for the opportunity to serve our community!

The Petals of Kindness project provided some cheer by delivering the leftover gala centerpieces to senior living facilities and elementary schools. By giving flowers we brighten days, create connections, and show how small acts of kindness make a big difference. **Rotary Club of West Wichita Satellite Rotarians** Paige Koeppen and Julie Butler make a delivery.



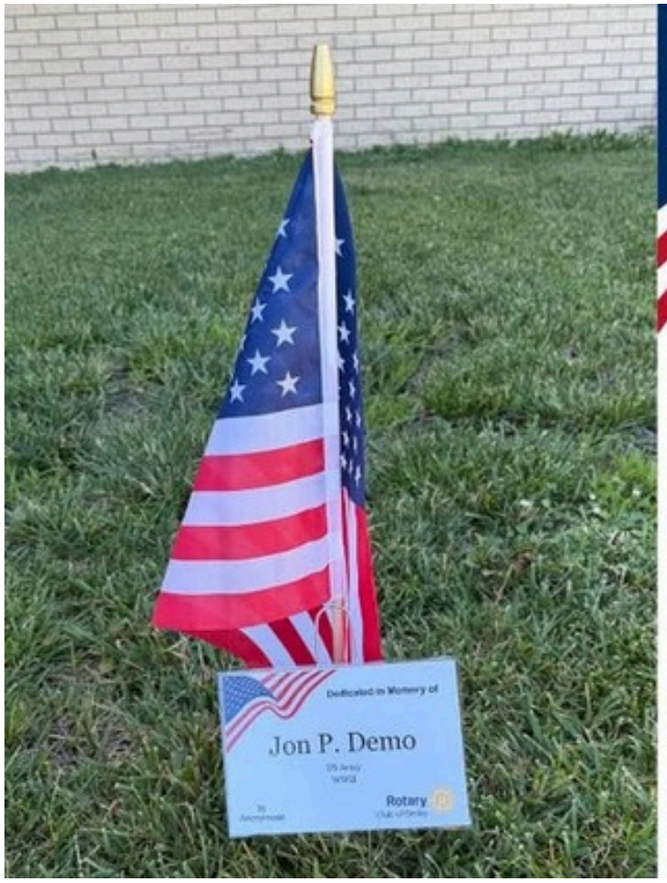


Rotary Club of Guymon presented a check to Panhandle Cares.

Rotary Club of Guymon's October & September's Students of the Month: Melina Alvarado, Andrez Ozaeta, Jakelin Teodoro, and Itzayana Sanjuan , and the STEAM Craft Station presented their program and services







Miles of Flags
Fundraiser

Celebrate Veteran's Day by dedicating a flag in honor or memory of a service member or by sponsoring a celebration flag.

- Flags will be displayed in Madison Avenue Central Park November 10-12.
- All proceeds will help support local programs and community efforts of the Rotary Club of Derby.
- For more information, check out our website.

Rotary Club of Derby

Flags will be displayed along Madison Ave Nov 10-12. All proceeds will help support local programs and community efforts of the **Rotary Club of Derby.** Help us create Miles of Flags this Veteran's Day.

To sponsor or dedicate a flag with an online payment, visit this Zeffy link: https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/miles-of-flags
For more information, check out our website: https://derbyrotary.org/miles-of-flags.php







Rotary Club of West Wichita Putting boxes together for Suspenders4Hope for Suicide Prevention and put together Hope Kits to deliver to the local hospital, school, and Mental health center to help address mental health crisis situations.

Suspenders4Hope

Suspenders4Hope®

BENTON ELEMENTARY BOO BASH WAS A SMASH!

The **Rotary Club of West Wichita** held THE BOO BASH on October 30. Meliss Hamilton, Bruce Pearson and his wife Bev, Shannon Bauer and her husband Gary, and Rick Oglesby helped cook and wrap hotdogs serving over 200 hotdogs while surviving the rain!







District 5680 & 5710 Conference
23-24 October



Over 65 Rotarians from D5680 joined over 60 Rotarians from D5710 at a joint district conference. Learning, service, and fun were on the agenda.



Great time at Rotary District Conference this year. Some imposters showed up trying to act and look like our current District Governors Isaac McNary 5680 and Michelle Sink 5710

Six **Salina Rotarians** were able to attend a joint district conference this weekend. The collaboration between the districts meant we were able to learn more, split our time and bring back even more information to our peers.



CLICK HERE TO ACCESS ALL PHOTOS FROM DISTRICT CONFERENCE!



Club Awards

2025-2026

CLUB OF THE YEAR

BOISE CITY

100% TRF GIVING

Kinsley
Haskell County
Andover
Old Town Wichita
Russell

EREY
EVERY ROTARIAN EVERY YEAR

Kinsley
Andover
Old Town Wichita
Russell

END POLIO NOW
CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Abilene
Derby
East Wichita
Haskell County
Hays
Kinsley
Liberal
Salina
West Sedgwick County-Sunrise

TOP PER CAPITA GIVING

1. Kinsley
2. Haskell County
3. E-Club of Heart of America













ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Club Presidents and RYLA Champions: Help us reconnect with RYLA Alumni!

Has your club sent one or more students to RYLA in the last 10 years? Have you attended RYLA yourself? We need your story!

- **RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards)** - The District RYLA Team is working to reinvigorate participation in this great program. We're fortunate to have a student/faculty team at Friends University help us with this project, but we need YOUR help.
- We are looking to connect with past RYLA participants (from recent attendees to alumni from 10–15 years ago) to hear about…
  - Your/their RYLA Experience: How did the program impact your/their leadership journey?
  - Beyond RYLA: Your/their subsequent involvement in Interact, Rotaract, or Rotary.
- If you are a past RYLA participant, or your club can still contact past sponsored students, please contact me ASAP so I can help the Friends students connect with them. **rotary5680.dg2728@gmail.com**
- **Club Presidents** - When you get a phone call or email from students with Friends University, kindly respond promptly so they can give us the best results for our project.

Yours In Service,
Amy
Amy Lash Esau, DG 2027-2028
District 5680

Polioplus Update



Rotarians from Districts 5710 and 5680 joined the Worlds Largest Polio Walk for #WorldPolioDay at the District Conference. #EndPolioNow



District Conference PolioPlus project



Telling Your Rotary Story

Sharing the Impact Behind the Service

People are inspired by stories. While statistics and accomplishments matter, stories help others understand why Rotary makes a difference and why membership is meaningful.

Every Member Has a Story

Stories might include:

- A service project that changed someone's life
- A lasting friendship developed through Rotary
- Professional growth through leadership opportunities
- Community impact witnessed firsthand
- Experiences gained through Rotary service



Why Storytelling Matters

Effective storytelling:

- Builds club pride
- Creates stronger member engagement
- Increases community awareness
- Helps prospective members connect emotionally
- Strengthens Rotary's public image

Sharing Your Story

Encourage members to share Rotary experiences:

- On social media
- During meetings
- At community events
- Through local media
- In conversations with prospective members

Authentic stories often become the most effective membership invitations.

Membership Moment

Ask members to share a two-minute answer to: **"Why Rotary matters to me."**

Action Challenge

Feature one member story each month through your club newsletter, website, or social media channels.

Alana McNary, PHR, SHRM-CP, FPC
Chief People Officer | Human Resources

ROTARY DISTRICT 5680

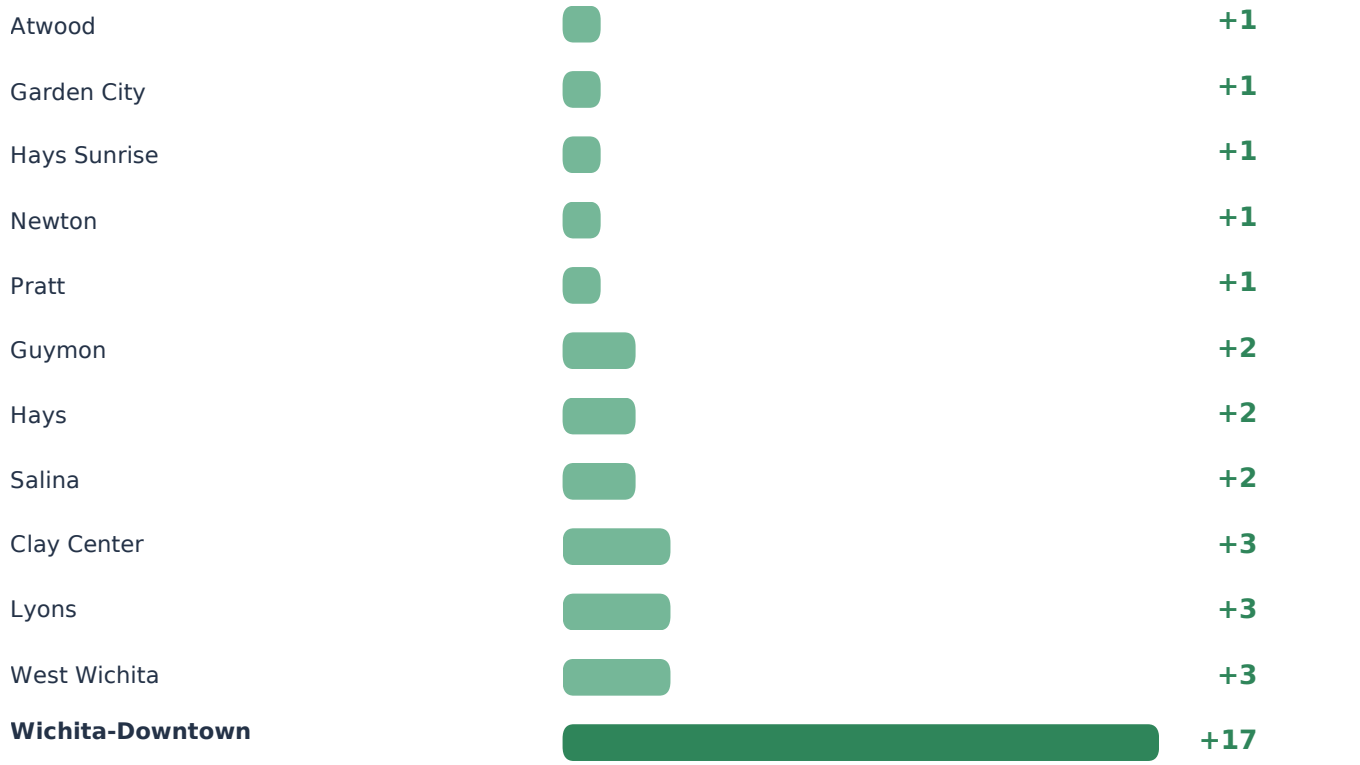
MEMBERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS | JULY 1 OCTOBER 31, 2026

12 clubs are growing!

Celebrating the clubs adding members across District 5680

12	1,937	1,933
CLUBS WITH GAINS	MEMBERS JULY 1	MEMBERS OCT. 31

CLUBS LEADING THE WAY



BIGGEST GAIN

Wichita-Downtown added 17 members

DISTRICT-WIDEPICTURE

Overall membership declined by 4 members (1,937 → 1,933).

District 5680 serves the western two-thirds of Kansas and a northwestern portion of Oklahoma.