



District 5680 News



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Message from District Governor Kurt Harper

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

It is a bit saddening to realize that in a matter of days, my duties as your district governor will come to a close — but enheartening to know I will be succeeded by an exceptional leader like Dana Brewer, from the Rotary Club of Concordia. Dana and I got to know each other as we progressed through our respective Governor Training sequences, and it has been humbling to see his constant dedication not only to our District, but to the entirety of the Mission of Rotary. He has been a stabilizing force as our boat got rocked by the novel coronavirus and the changes we have been through—and I am comforted knowing that he will be at the helm in our next Rotary year.

I also feel confident working with Dana, with our soon-to-be Governor Elect Fred Heismeyer, and now with Fred's heir-apparent, Ivanhoe Love from Liberal, that we have put in place a chain of succession that will continue to draw on the strengths from all quarters of our district. We have collectively set in place a process to identify and develop leadership, to rotate new faces in, to draw more on the special familiarity our assistant governors have with our clubs, to keep the district moving forward.

One cannot leave a position like the one I've had the honor to hold this past year



without pausing to thank those who helped us to have the successes we enjoyed, and of course, first and foremost among those is the District Governess, Kelly Harper. More than once I have observed that Rotary has kept me around for nearly 25 years largely because Kelly has been part of the package; this has

never been more true than this last year. She helped organize our Rotary Road Trips and chauffeured me over 9,000 miles (so I could attempt to stay connected with work while traveling); took on the accounting for our expense budget; and brought her expertise to every part of the job, large and small—from kindly telling me when I had talked long enough, to overseeing major parts of the District Conference.

Of course, a full list of those who helped would fill the newsletter, but I need to especially thank the executive committee which consisted principally of Past District Governors Sterling Hall, Andrea Krauss, Gary Norris, Robert Mendoza, Randy Krug and Dean Kennedy, all of whom were valuable mentors in this process. All of the Assistant Governors helped out with club visits and other relationships, covering 13 geographic areas. Of our AGs, we ended the year with 4 new ones, a turnover rate appropriate to a district this size. We will also see a passing of the reins on Foundation Committee Chair from Robert Mendo-



Rotary



DG Kurt Harper (cont'd)

za, who brought to the table an encyclopedic knowledge of the Foundation, to Donna Meier Pfeifer from Pratt next year. We recruited DeAnn Sullivan from West Wichita to serve as District Trainer as Fred moves along the DG path. PDG Andrea Krauss from Russell has agreed to take on the District Grant function as Larry Tobias phases out. All these changes position us to continue to broaden our perspectives and develop a healthy habit of planning leadership succession on a rotating basis.

Finally, and perhaps most of all, I have to say what a pleasure, and honor, it was for Kelly and me to visit every club in this inaugural year of District 5680, and to dispatch the other duties of office. Our call to the clubs to join us in planning for the future was met in every way. We found, all over the district, presidents dedicated to the growth and health of their clubs; and, of course, we got to see the good works of our nearly 2,500 Rotarians and meet the majority of them in person. We enjoyed the visits so much, that we were able to turn the Challenge of the Coronavirus into an Opportunity—an opportunity to revisit numerous clubs by Zoom!

I won't be disappearing altogether, of course. As a Past District Governor, I will still get to serve on the Executive

Committee, remain involved in the finances of the District; and I suspect I will find a District Committee to be involved with. I will also use some of my rediscovered time to resume my study of Serbian, in case we get involved in the USAID Global Grants for Eastern Europe, including Serbia and Montenegro; and to stay in touch, on a more individual basis, with the many Rotary friends across the district and across the globe.

Rotary, as you know, has a close relationship to scouting, and when our son was in scouts, he was trained as all good campers are trained—to leave the campground better than he found it. I am hopeful that, in some way, the same is true as I wind up this term as District Governor—even with both Districts as good as they were a year ago, Kelly and I hope we've done our part to make this new combined one a bit better; and as I noted at the outset, we know we are leaving it in very good hands [to become even better](#).

Kurt A. Harper

District Governor, 2019-20
District 5680



Thank you DG Kurt for a great year!

Message from DG Governess—Kelly Harper

As I have shadowed your District Governor, my husband Kurt, during two years of RI training and then most especially this past year actively working around the state of Kansas and Panhandle of Oklahoma, I have not only learned vastly more about Rotary but also have a deeper understanding about the district

in which we live – and, most significantly what it means to have a vibrant Rotary club in each and every one of the communities.

You see, without Rotary's

"People of Action", we are at risk of becoming stagnant and stale. But, at the core of our communities are people who care about their neighbors and the future of what they call home. These Rotarians build playgrounds, improve swimming pools, plant trees and provide park benches.



They give books and read to children, buy innovative specialty medical equipment to attract young doctors to reside in their town, and invest through service to make their home a better place for all to live.

Community. Whether that be worldwide, local, or in your own backyard, Rotarians are making a difference. YOU are making a difference.

YOU are the points on the Rotary Wheel that turn and grind and work to make progress in your community and around the world.

It has been a great honor to join Kurt on this "Rotary trail". I wish each and every one of you great success as you continue to serve and grow future leaders to follow in your footsteps.



And the Guard Has Changed—District Governor Pin Passed to Dana Brewer

The **Rotary Club of Concordia** hosted 2019-20 DG Kurt Harper and 2020-21 DG Dana Brewer as responsibility for District 5680 changed hands. Following a lovely lunch, Concordia president Greg Hattan presided at the club meeting and introduced DG Kurt who recalled the year he and “Governess Kelly” enjoyed. Kurt reviewed the responsibilities Dana agreed to assume as he and Tina begin their Rotary journey as District Governor and the “pin was passed.”

A Rotary Good Time was had by all—in person and via Zoom.



*Congratulations to the **RC Concordia** for a successful pin passing and for being new District Governor Dana's Home Club*



Following his remarks and reviewing DGE Dana's responsibilities, DG Kurt “passed” the District Governor pin to Dana. Notice that social distancing was carefully observed.



Throughout the year, Governess Kelly asked “Where's My Tiara?” when DG Kurt would refer to her as his “Governess.” Well, she has one now!



2020-21 DG Dana reviews the opportunities for Rotary Service in the coming year.



Congratulations, Dana Brewer & Tina and welcome as the District 5680 Governor 2020-21! We look forward to an exciting year under your leadership!



You can still attend the RI Convention—On Demand

Rotary's first ever Virtual Convention 20-26 June 2020 is ON DEMAND.

You can still attend an Rotary International Convention! If you missed the live broadcasts, they are available on the convention website allowing you to participate at your own convenience.

Watch the Convention Opening Sessions

- General Session, Part 1
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NRQqIPbQdE0&t=1817s>
- General Session, Part 2
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B48IEPfyhs&feature=youtu.be>

Watch the Breakout Sessions

<https://www.riconvention.org/en/honolulu/featured-breakouts>

Highly recommended for club leaders—“Using Virtual Tools to Engage Members” (1 hour)

<https://interprenet.screencasthost.com/channels/cY10F5Vf2D#details-play-cY10rhCS16>

Watch More Breakout Sessions in July

<https://www.riconvention.org/en/honolulu/july-breakouts>

Note: You can register to attend or watch the live recording of these.

And don't forget to register for the 2021 Convention in Taipei, Taiwan June 12-16, 2021. Feel the Energy!
www.convention.rotary.org

Past Rotary International President Frank Devlyn Dies



Frank J. Devlyn, a former Rotary International president who encouraged members to think ahead and take quick action on humanitarian issues, died on 27 May.

In addition to his term as RI president in 2000-01, Devlyn served as director, Rotary Foundation trustee chair, aide to the president, International Assembly leader, committee member and chair, Council on

Legislation representative, and district governor. Devlyn, who joined Rotary in 1970, was most recently a member of the Rotary Club of Anáhuac Tacubaya, Ciudad México, Mexico. He was the founding editor of the magazines *Rotarismo en México* and *Rotary en México*. He also wrote a series of bestselling books called "Frank Talk" on topics such as leadership, public speaking, and Rotary.

The presidential theme during Devlyn's term, Create Awareness — Take Action, urged Rotary members to be enterprising in addressing some of the world's most difficult humanitarian issues. To help in this, Devlyn focused many of the 20 task forces he appointed on challenges such as avoidable blindness, crime and violence, the environment, and jobs for people with disabilities.

Devlyn was the president and chief executive of Devlyn Optical Group and had been president of the Optometric

and Opticians Association of Mexico. His humanitarian service outside Rotary was extensive. He had been a member of the boards of Goodwill Industries International and the Mexican Red Cross and treasurer of the Tuberculosis and Lung Association of Mexico. Devlyn had also been president of Mexico's Vecino Vigilante initiative, a neighborhood watch program sponsored by Rotary clubs and other organizations, collectively known as Mexico United Against Crime. He created the largest bank of used eyeglasses in Mexico, which serves as a model worldwide for collecting eyeglass donations and distributing them in cooperation with a network of clubs.

Devlyn was recognized with The Rotary Foundation's Distinguished Service Award and its Citation for Meritorious Service. Along with his wife, Gloria Rita, he was a member of the Arch Klumph Society. He was awarded the title of Entrepreneur of the Year in Mexico in 2016.

He is survived by Gloria Rita, and three daughters, Melanie, Stephanie, and Jennifer.

Past President Frank visited D5690 twice. Those who knew and met him were impressed that he never forgot a name—and his unique ability to talk to anyone, not forgetting a thing they said. He will be missed in our Rotary world.

New Area of Focus in Rotary—Supporting the Environment



The Rotary Foundation Trustees and Rotary International Board of Directors have both unanimously approved adding a new area of focus: supporting the environment.

More than \$18 million in Foundation global grant funding has been allocated to environment-related projects over the past five years. Creating a distinct area of focus to support the environment will give Rotary members even more ways to bring about positive change in the world and increase our impact.

Supporting the environment becomes Rotary's seventh

area of focus, which are categories of service activities supported by global grants. It joins peacebuilding and conflict prevention; disease prevention and treatment; water, sanitation, and hygiene; maternal and child health; basic education and literacy; and community economic development.

Grant applications for projects will be accepted beginning on 1 July 2021. Gifts and commitments from Rotarians and others will be sought to provide global grant support for the new area of focus.

More information about this new cause will be announced soon.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

July 13-25

District Leadership Summit (DLS)
Virtual Meeting

Sept. 8-13, 2020

Zone Institute (Virtual Meeting)
"Rotary's On Fire"
Houston, TX

October 23-24, 2020

District Conference
Salina Hilton Garden Inn
Salina, KS

Food For Our Neighbors—a COVID-19 Project

Fellow Rotarians,

Our District's Leadership Team has developed a Project to help our neighbors who are experiencing increased food scarcity because of the public health challenges and resulting economic pressures.

We have decided to use approximately \$17,000 of unused local District Grant Funds and the balance from reserve District Designated Funds returned to the District by the Rotary Foundation, to purchase \$50,000 of processed meals from The Outreach Program in Des Moines, Iowa (Google it - awesome). Rick McNary and Isaac McNary (RC El Dorado) initiated the project for us.

They have worked with Iowa State University to produce highly nutritious and tasty meal-size servings, at the very reasonable cost of 33 cents per serving or 3 meals for \$1. Our Project is supplying 150,000 meals of oatmeal, Mac & cheese, rice dishes, etc. Not four course meals but enough to sustain hungry adults and especially children, when they need it the most!

The meals, which come in 42-serving shoebox sized boxes, are being divided evenly among our 60 Clubs, including our E Club (60 boxes per Club), for you to donate where you think it will do the most good in our communities, whether food bank or pantry, Senior Center, Meals on Wheels for weekend supplies or school or summer childrens' meals programs.

Distribution has begun and a press release has been provided to each club via email to publicize the



event and Rotary's involvement in meeting at least part of the Covid-19 virus challenge.

F & A Food Sales (Dan & Garrett Farha) in Concordia, helped make this happen, by backhauling the food from Kansas City, then delivering it to Russell, Colby, Sublette and Wichita at extremely generous freight rates. Rotarians who stepped up around the District to manage pickup sites are Fred Heismeyer (Wichita), Brad Gamber (Winfield), Andrea Krauss (Russell), Hale Sloan (Hays), Chad Stefan (Great Bend), Vern Hurd (Colby), Sterling Hall (Sublette) and Dana Brewer (Concordia).

No matching money is being requested, but please thoughtfully consider continuing to support local food programs or raising money for cash purchases with local merchants, most of whom have been donating substantial amounts of food themselves over the years. As Rotarians we care, let them know.

Thanks for all the good you do, through Rotary Service!

Kurt Harper
District Governor 19-20

Dana Brewer
District Governor 20-21
785-614-1089 for Q&A



Distribution is underway!



Photos provided
by Vernon Hurd,
RC Colby

Using a vehicle provided by the RC Sharon Springs, volunteers from Colby Community College helped load food for the club. Colby Community College also graciously served as the receiving and distribution point for area clubs.



Thanks to PDG Andrea Krauss for these photos of the food being delivered in Russell for distribution to several area clubs



Thomas County EMS helped unload the Colby club's donation to the Genesis Thomas County

Colby president Vernon Hurd delivered 60 boxes to Genesis Thomas County board members



Needed: A Few Good Rotarians to do Contact Tracing

Submitted by 2020-21 DG Dana Brewer

Rotarians are experienced in dealing with pandemics. "Pandemics" are generally diseases which are prevalent over the whole world.

Rotarians joined with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the World Health Organization (yes that WHO) to reduce paralyzing cases of polio affecting mostly children, from 350,000 cases per year, to 2 or 3 dozen annually. It is estimated that 15 to 18 million people are able to walk, play and work without physical limitations because of our combined efforts of faithful fundraising and People in Action. PolioPlus also helped to greatly reduce measles cases.

Measles, which affects about 20 million people a year, primarily children, is one of the leading vaccine-preventable disease causes of death. In 1980, 2.6 million people died of it and in 1990, 545,000 died; by 2014, global vaccination programs had reduced the number of deaths from measles to 73,000. Despite these trends, rates of disease and deaths increased from 2017 to 2019 due to a decrease in immunization.

It is tragic to realize that roughly the same number of measles victims have died since 2000 (15-18 million) as the number we have helped save from the paralytic ravages of Polio.

These are certainly challenging times! But when we are faced with the largest challenges in life, we are also presented with the greatest opportunities!

The Rotary theme, which Rotary International President

Elect Holger Knaack is challenging each of us with, for our next year of shared Rotary Service, is **"Rotary Opens Opportunities!"** How very timely!

We may soon have opportunities to use Rotary's world-wide structure, expertise, experience and person-power, which has delivered PolioPlus vaccines to millions upon millions of children in a single day, to the effective delivery of anti-Covid vaccine(s).

Just imagine the profound impact we, as a united Rotary can make, by delivering fatal blows to this killer virus!

For now, we have the opportunity to individually partner with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to assist with contact tracing of persons identified as possibly being infected with Covid-19, so that they can be alerted that they are positive for the disease. They can then quarantine to stop their unintentional spread of its dreaded effects.

Those of us who can, should strongly consider receiving the brief training required to make necessary contact tracing phone calls from the safety of our home or office. There is no person to person interaction involved. Doing so will establish Rotary with State health officials, so that when effective Anti-Covid vaccine(s) are developed, Rotary Districts 5710 (Eastern Kansas, with which we partner often, including Heartland PETS) and our own 5680, will be at the head of the line to help with the vaccination campaign.

Contact link to KS Dept. of Health & Environment
<https://member.everbridge.net/892807736723931/login>

Rotary's Vision Statement

"Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change — across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves."

The Rotary Foundation (TRF) 2020 Fiscal Year-end Deadlines

Please note the following for Rotary Foundation (TRF) Contributions:

- **Credit Cards: Online** via www.rotary.org – must be authorized prior to 30 June 2020, midnight (CST). **Phone (866-976-8279)** contributions will be accepted through 5:00PM CST on 30 June 2020..
- **Checks:** Both the postmark and the date written on the check must be no later than **June 30, 2020** and received by The Rotary Foundation by July 7, 2020.
- **Wire transfers:** Must be initiated prior to Tuesday, June 30, 2020 and received by Wednesday, July 1, 2020.

Please do NOT send in checks for the 2020-21 Rotary year until July 1, 2021. All checks received with June postmarks go toward 2019-20 contributions.

Club News from around the District



Rotary Club Hugoton:

We're sure everyone will appreciate the tables and benches we installed at the City Pool!



Rotary Club Russell: We've been quite busy despite the Corona virus situation. An article in our local paper listed some of the many things we've been doing:

- We are doing the US Flag project which provides a flag display in 250 subscribers' yards on 5 patriotic days every year.
- We are constructing a walking bridge to cross the creek in Fossil Park.
- We are working with the Russell PRIDE organization to have a splash park built in Russell's downtown as part of the local Streetscape program.
- We sponsored a "What's Up in Russell" coffee reception earlier this month during which we promoted the sale of bricks to the public to raise funds for the splash park.
- Club members recently painted the support frame beside I-70 for a roadside billboard.
- We are planning a return trip to Ecuador to distribute COVID-19 supplies that will help with cleaning and personal hygiene
- We made several contributions to local schools, the local After School Program and awarded a \$1,000 high school scholarship.
- We continue to support local first responders and victims of residential fires through our Rotary Rescue Program.



Rotary Club Garden City:

Through a partnership with Finney County United Way, our club has made a \$5000 gift for two years now, to the Dolly Partin Imagination Library. The Library distributes free books monthly to children from birth to five years. This year's gift was made possible with a \$2500 District Grant. Here Rotarian, Liz Scheopner reads books with two of her grandchildren, who are participants in the Library.



Rotary Club Old Town Wichita: We've continued to meet via Zoom and in hybrid and have done a few service projects this past month!

- We met at the Museum of World Treasures and did an Old Town clean-up.
- We assembled 40 care kits to be distributed to our homeless population this week.
- Thanks to everyone who purchased geraniums from us! We distributed them earlier this month.
- All of our meetings are broadcast on Zoom and open to anyone who wants to attend. Join us!



Rotary Club East Wichita:

At our changing of the guard meeting from outgoing Ann

Schneider and incoming president Michael Moeder, Rotarian Joyce Heismeyer was honored with our club's Service

Above Self 2020 Award. Susan Addington (not pictured) was recognized as our Rotarian of the Year.



ShelterBox Thanks You

District 5680 clubs D5680 contributed a total of \$22,980 to ShelterBox USA this year, ranking #3 in Zone 29 for total giving.

A total of 8 clubs contributed \$9,500 of the total donations. These are the HERO clubs in D5680:

- Silver (3,000-4,999) — RC Salina
- Bronze (1,000-2,999) —
RC West Wichita
RC Atwood
RC Beloit
RC Hays

Thank you, DG Kurt, for your hard work and dedication as District Governor in supporting ShelterBox USA.

District 5680 Membership Report As Of May 31, 2020

Club	7/1/2019 MEMBERSHIP	5/31/2020 MEMBERSHIP	NET GAIN 2019-2020
Abilene	56	59	3
Andover	32	26	(6)
Arkansas City	68	62	(6)
Atwood	26	22	(4)
Beaver	19	15	(4)
Beloit	43	41	(2)
Boise City	20	21	1
Cimarron	22	20	(2)
Clay Center	45	47	2
Colby	57	55	(2)
Concordia	31	31	0
Derby	67	70	3
Dodge City	38	38	0
Downs	7	9	2
East Wichita	102	95	(7)
E-Club	18	20	2
El Dorado	41	36	(5)
Ellinwood	20	20	0
Ellis	9	9	0
Garden City	47	45	(2)
Goodland	37	36	(1)
Great Bend	38	46	8
Guymon	25	25	0
Hays	63	64	1
Hays Sunrise	17	15	(2)
Hill City	10	13	3
Howard	14	13	(1)
Hoxie	20	20	0
Hugoton	16	15	(1)
Hutchinson	100	101	1
Johnson	16	15	(1)
Kingman	24	25	1
Kinsley	8	15	7
Larned	17	16	(1)
Liberal	54	46	(8)
Lindsborg	9	8	(1)
Lyons	22	23	1
McPherson	45	39	(6)
Ness City	17	21	4
Newton	57	55	(2)
Norton	13	13	0
Oberlin	37	34	(3)
Osborne	13	14	1
Phillipsburg	49	49	0
Pratt	56	53	(3)
Russell	37	39	2
Salina	139	126	(13)
Sharon Springs	10	10	0
Sterling	17	20	3
Sublette	18	18	0
Syracuse	18	18	0
Texhoma	15	15	0
Ulysses	30	28	(2)
Washington	36	37	1
Wellington	12	12	0
West Sedgwick Co Sunrise	43	38	(5)
West Wichita	61	61	0
Wichita-Downtown	412	416	4
Wichita-Old Town	8	10	2
Winfield	84	74	(10)
TOTALS	2485	2437	(48)



District 5680

www.rotary5680.org

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

PDG Geri Appel, Editor
Phone: 316-841-2592
appelg@kenlerman.com



2019-20 RI President
Mark D. Maloney
Decatur, Alabama USA



Rotary International Convention
Taipei, Taiwan
June 12-16, 2021
www.rotary.org/convention
Register today!

