



# District 5690 News



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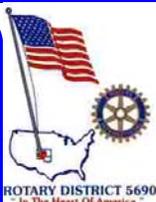
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## Message from District Governor

### David Yoder



Dear 5690 Rotarians,

Here we are at the end of November, Thanksgiving is here and by the time you read this, already behind us. December is about to arrive and Christmas is now charging right at us. In this very busy time of rushing to complete year-end plans, planning family gatherings, mandatory fun in the form of all those office and organizational activities and dinners, planning Christmas shopping, holiday decorating, and everything else that goes with these holidays, don't forget to take the time to take a breath, gather your thoughts, take some quiet time for yourself, and appreciate all those blessings in our lives. This is, most importantly, the time to give thanks and appreciate what we have. Among many other things, these are some of the things for which I am thankful:

I am so very thankful for my loving and ever-growing family. Lori and I have six grown children, most of whom still live close to us. We were blessed within the past couple of months with two more granddaughters, bringing our ever-increasing extended family to eight (yes, eight) grandchildren. We're not only being showered with these blessings, it sometimes feels like a down-

pour!

I am thankful for the honor of serving my community as Harvey County Attorney, a job many consider thankless and never-ending, but I look at it as an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of victims at their time

of greatest need. Without trying to sound syrupy in this, I truly feel blessed to have found my calling, and feel that I am following the plan that has been set out for my life. I don't know how many people can say that.

I am thankful to have the great luck to be born into such a wonderful and dynamic country, and to have served my country (US Air Force if you want to know). I also feel blessed to be a Kansan, and despite the turmoil going on throughout our state, I am proud to have been born and to remain a Kansan through-and-through. Having said that, I cannot of course exclude my great friends from the Oklahoma clubs, as I feel every bit as much a part of their great state as I do my home state of Kansas. Never have I been made to feel more at home and to be a part of them as when I made my visits there, so I can say with all honesty that I consider myself to also be an honor-

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**December 1, 2015**  
**Giving Tuesday**

**Mar. 31-Apr. 2, 2016**  
**PETS**  
**Manhattan, KS**

**May 25-29, 2016**  
**RYLA**  
**Winfield, KS**

**Dec. 15, 2015**  
**Deadline to register for RI Convention at early rate**

**April 29-30, 2016**  
**District Training Assembly**  
**Greensburg, KS**

**May 28—June 1 2016**  
**Rotary Intl. Convention**  
**Seoul Korea**



## Message from District Governor David Yoder (cont'd)

ary Oklahoman. There's another blessing, to be a part of two great states unified in Rotary.

And of course, I am so very blessed to be a Rotarian, to be part of the greatest civic organization the world has ever seen. To be a small part of an organization dedicated to making the world a better place for no other reason than it's the right thing to do, recognizing that every person is entitled to basic human dignities, and realizing that we have the capability and willingness to make it happen.

I am so very thankful for the friends I have met and made along my life's journey, and for the opportunity over this past year to make so many new friends during my Rotary travels. I have met so many people during my Rotary service, from all over the country and the world, who I can

now count as friend even after meeting for a relatively brief time. Such is the nature of Rotary: once you meet a Rotarian you can count them as a friend for life. How blessed are we for this chance to continually make new friends from all over the world!

Thanks for allowing me this opportunity to open up my heart and digress from my normal District-focused article, and to spend a little time sharing with you what I feel to be the meaning of the holidays.

Happiest of Thanksgivings and blessed Christmas time to you all.

**David Yoder**

*District Governor 2015-16  
Rotary Club of Newton*



## November is Rotary Foundation Month

The mission of The Rotary Foundation is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty.

The Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation supported solely by voluntary contributions from Rotarians and

friends of the Foundation who share its vision of a better world.

The Rotary Foundation provides critical funding to empower Rotarians to undertake sustainable projects that eradicate disease, promote peace, provide clean water and fight illiteracy and malnutrition.

## Call for District Governor Nominations for 2017-2018

The month of November begins the process for selecting the District Governor for the 2018-2019 Rotary year. One of the most important things a club can do is to allow the district to benefit from your club's leaders by encouraging them to be a District 5690 leader.

Pertinent dates for the District Governor Nomination process are as follows:

November 4 District Governor David Yoder has invited clubs to submit suggestions to the nominating committee in an official call to all club presidents via email. Candidates submitted will be considered by the nominating committee.

Dec / Jan Additional announcements for District Governor will be published in the December and January issues of the monthly newsletter.

January 15 Deadline for the receipt by either the governor or the nominating committee chair of club nominations of District Governor candidates.

February 15 Deadline for selection of nominee for governor by the nominating committee. The nominating committee chair will promptly notify all candidates of the decision.

This position is challenging but very rewarding and you are asked to review your member list and consider nominating a candidate. If you have questions, call any committee member. Nomination committee members are Mike Ford (Beaver), Charlene Mathis (Derby), Steve Woods (Wichita), PDG Martin Bauer, PDG Sue Pearce (E. Wichita), PDG Larry Rumburg, Committee Secretary PDG Rod Kreie (Newton), and Committee Chair PDG Phil Michel (W. Wichita). For their contact information please refer to the district web site. <http://www.rotary5690.org/>

**PDG Phil Michel**  
**Nomination Committee Chair**  
[phil\\_michel2001@yahoo.com](mailto:phil_michel2001@yahoo.com)  
**Office—316-681-3292 or Cell—316-213-5515**



*During the recent District Conference, Rotarians were asked to dream, dream big and think how Rotary can answer the call locally and globally*

*to help those in need and make a significant, sustainable impact. Using the six areas of focus, as supported by RI, Rotarians were asked to state how they and/or their club could make an impact, especially if funding and other resources were not an issue. Below is a very brief summary of the results of this exercise.*

### **Peace and conflict prevention/resolution**

Bullying education, conflict resolution for teens and collaboration programs were the major theme for this area of focus. A few of the ideas mentioned international peace initiatives; however the majority of suggestions focused on local community initiatives.

### **Disease prevention and treatment**

Much of the ideas for this area of focus were on partnering with local health agencies to provide support for immunizations, disease prevention and hygiene education. Support for pre-natal care and infant care also were mentioned several times.

### **Water and sanitation**

This area of focus generated ideas on resource savings/education, international outreach and water quality. It was suggested that Water/Sanitation would also lower the deadly disease rate around the world.

### **Maternal and child health**

Hygiene education, pre-natal care and healthy lifestyles were the common theme in this area of focus. There was a strong crossover of ideas with the Disease prevention/treatment area of focus.

### **Basic education and literacy**

Dictionary distribution, tutoring and mentoring were ideas generated more often in this area of focus. In a few instances, ESL programs and adult literacy programs were mentioned. Partnerships with local schools/programs were a common strategy for Rotarians and clubs to be successful in these areas.

### **Economic and community development**

The number one idea generated in this category centered on micro grants/micro financing/micro loans. This area of focus also generated some support for partnerships with community business leaders and organizations. Economic education and support programs also were mentioned several times.

*An unedited list, as generated during the District Conference, will be forwarded to Club Presidents, Club Secretaries and District Leadership. It is the hope that the unedited list will be shared with Club Service Committees and used as a resource to open up a brainstorming session about how the Club can meet the needs of its community.*

*Column submitted by Fred Heismeyer,  
District 5690 Trainer*



## **Give the Gift of Rotary on Giving Tuesday**

On **December 1**, join Rotary for the global day of giving back, [Giving Tuesday](#). When you donate to The Rotary Foundation, you help eradicate disease, promote peace, provide clean water, and fight illiteracy and malnutrition. [Give the gift of Rotary](#) to make a meaningful difference in communities around the world.

# Club News from around the District

**Rotary Club W. Wichita:** Our David Weber Extra Effort Awards for the new school year have started. A student from each class at Lawrence Elementary is selected by their teacher to receive this recognition based on their efforts in the classroom. Last month, the fifth grade classes were recognized.



**Rotary Club W. Sedgwick County Sunrise:** It only took about an hour to clean-up our club-sponsored Boundless Playground. Following the clean-up, cinnamon rolls were enjoyed by all.



**Rotary Club Newton:** President Tom Williams presented a check for \$5,500 to USD Superintendent Deb Hamm. Our club's "Birdies Against Bullies" golf tournament to bring Rachel's Challenge program to the Newton School System as an anti-bullying campaign provided the funding. This is the 2nd year our club has partnered with the school district for these programs.

**Rotary Club Wellington:** We sponsored the Chamber of Commerce coffee this month. The purpose of this event is to provide a quick get together of community members for fellowship and updates of activity/events which are occurring in the area. By serving as sponsor, our club provided refreshments and addressed community members about the "ideas of Rotary" and how the local club seeks to make them come to life in our community, country, and world. The highlight of this event was the utilization of an activity unique to the Wellington Rotary Club. By asking "today in history" trivia questions, selected attendees had the opportunity to win a door prize. There were several comments by community members about how exciting and fun this activity was.

**Rotary Club Wichita:** DG David Yoder presented Tammy Allen, the District Spelling Bee(r) champion with her award at a recent club meeting.



**Rotary Club Old Town Wichita:** We painted another playground map at Prairie Creek Elementary School in Andover on November 7.

**Rotary Club W. Sedgwick Co. Sunrise:** Brent Dome, on behalf of our club presented Brandon Eckerman, Interact Club president with a \$1,500 check as a donation to the Interact trip to Panama in March.



**Rotary Club W. Wichita:** We received this thank you note.

*Dear West Wichita Rotary Club,  
Thank you, once again, for providing so many willing volunteers to assist us with the mock interviews! We greatly appreciate your willingness to help! We would not be able to pull off the event without your help. We appreciate it very much to know there are community members who want to work to better our young people.  
Have a great week!  
Sincerely,  
Danea Cramer  
College Career Coordinator  
Wichita High School Northwest*

**Rotary Club El Dorado:** Club members assembled dictionaries for distribution to 3rd grade students in Grandview, Skelly, Lincoln and Oil Hill Schools.



Youth Exchange student **Tessa Sahlbrant** from Germany was a guest at our meeting when DG David Yoder spoke to our club

**Rotary Club Wichita:** Long-time Haiti volunteer **Sam Muyskens** was presented the Ozzie Goering International Service Award by Past District Governor Martin Bauer in recognition of Sam's many years of dedication to the medical facility and school in Lambert, Haiti.



**Rotary Club E. Wichita:** *Drum roll, please!* Our goal was to purchase and deliver 80 Thanksgiving Turkey Dinners this year. However, we delivered holiday turkey dinners to

# MORE Club News from around the District

ninety-two (92) families this year, paid for through \$5,000 in donations made by club members.



## Rotary Club Ulysses:

**Andrew Hawkins** was a recent speaker at our club meeting. Andrew is from Garden City, and has spent much of his eleven years since graduating

high school visiting, studying, and working in European countries. He has spent time in Finland, Sweden and the Czech Republic. He recently received his masters degree from a university from the Czech Republic. Andrew is a former *Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar*. Pictured above (L to R) are Larry Rumburg, Rob Oglevie, Andrew, and Matt Schonlau.

**Rotary Club W. Wichita:** We built 140 bookshelves last Thursday evening! Thanks to **Roger Bowles** for organizing this event and **Bob Goebel** for providing the supplies and workshop. President Jamie got the traditional sawdust sprinkled on her head at the end of the evening. We will deliver the bookshelves to the 1st graders at Lawrence and Benton Elementary schools after the first of the year.



Winners: DeAnn Sullivan (Taco Soup) & Sharon West (Strawberry Pretzel Delight)

**Rotary Club W. Wichita:** Thanks to the efforts of **Zella Newberry** (organizer) and **Jodi Besthorn** (meeting host), we raised \$379 for Hunger Plus through votes, the soup pot auction and donations for left overs. We will add to that the money we saved by not eating at RHCC to send our donation to Hunger Plus. Our thanks as well to our chefs and all who participated to make it a success.

**Rotary Club of Arkansas City:** As part of a community service project, our club planted 14 trees around the perimeter of Arkansas City High School. Several Rotarians and their family members gathered together on a Saturday morning to plant 5 linden, 4 flowering pear, 2 crimson spire oak, and 3 redbud trees thanks in part to a grant the club received from Rotary District 5690.

"We applied for the grant in the hopes of funding a project that would provide lasting beauty to the community" said Ark City Rotary President **Ben Schears**. The district grant and matching local Rotary club funds came to \$3500; all of which went toward the purchase of the trees, transportation to the site, auger digging, fertilizer, mulch and other materials used in the planting process. The club purchased the trees from the nursery of Gottlob Lawn and Landscape in Winfield, whose owner, Alex Gottlob was on site to provide instruction on how to properly plant the trees to ensure their long-term survival.

"I think a few of us, myself included, thought the tree planting process was pretty cut and dry, but we quickly learned there was a lot more to know to ensure they last for generations" Schears said.

Club members chose a tree planting project with the school district because it was a tangible way to show support to the community and allowed club members to participate in hands-on community service. "It's great when we can give back financially to those around us, but it's a whole different level of service when you invest sweat equity into a project" Schears said.

Rotarians Kevin Campbell, Chris Dancy, John Farrar, Bob Foster, Bob Niles, Dennis Rittle (and son Daniel), Ben Schears (and wife Rachel and children), and John Sturd took part in the project.



# MORE Club News from around the District

**Rotary Club gives gift of words to Derby youth** by Judy Trease, *Derby Informer*, November 18, 2015

The **Rotary Club of Derby** broke out into “controlled chaos” Friday to pack boxes full of illustrated dictionaries to be gifted this week to third-graders at Derby schools. Mike Harper, president of the club, said the giving of the dictionaries has been a tradition for at least 12 years. And even though technology has changed in those years, the meaning that a real book can bring to a third-grader has not, he said.

“It’s just something they can use when the power is out,” Harper said with a laugh. “The kids absolutely love them.”

About 550 illustrated dictionaries were packed in all—enough for every third-grader in the school district, plus Derby private schools St. Mary’s and Faith Lutheran.

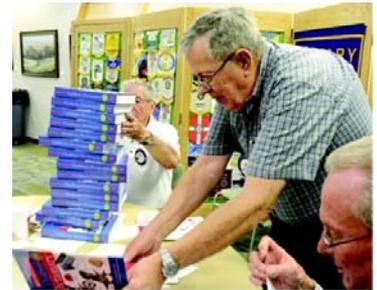
While many Rotary clubs have a similar program, Harper said Derby is the only area club to provide enough books for the whole district. And the children can keep the books past the school year, Harper said. “These are their books forever,” he said.

At the Rotary Club meeting Friday afternoon in the Derby Public Library, dozens of Derby business and civic leaders stood at tables, hustling to get books labeled and packed

back into boxes. Many were acting as if it were a competition to see which table could get done first. Library Director Eric Gustafson said there definitely was some friendly competition going on. “But no one’s counting so they could be lying,” he said with a laugh. “It’s just natural human rivalry.”

The 500-plus books were packed back into boxes on a row of pallets in about 45 minutes. From there, members of the Board of Education will take them for delivery to the 11 different schools.

Craig Wilford, superintendent of Derby schools, was there to help pack and said he will help deliver the books. “It’s pretty darn special,” he said. “This is an opportunity for a child to have a book to take home and have for their whole lives.”



*Jack Hickman, right, places Rotary Club information into dictionaries to be delivered to Derby third-graders.*

## Rotary Youth Exchange Visits Hutchinson



In late October, **Tessa Saehlbrandt** (Germany), **Teo Soler** (France), and **Amy Smith** (Taiwan) visited **Aubrey Abbott Patterson**, youth ex-

change officer, along with her husband, **Lance Patterson**, and kids, Sadye (12), Lydia (9) and Blake (5) in Hutchinson, Kansas. Together they saw and did it all in less than 48 hours!

The weekend included visits to Dillon Nature Center, Strataca--Underground Salt Museum, and Kansas Cosmosphe & Space Center.



The world-class museums were very interesting but the best memories happened during everyday life events like a fierce backyard game of flag football,

carving pumpkins, and eating s’mores with neighborhood friends.

Teo had his first serving of Kraft mac-n-cheese, Amy carved her first pumpkin, and

Tessa got to give piggy-back rides to the kids everywhere they went. These are important experiences, fun and friendships for all involved!

*Rotary makes it possible.*



*Thanks to Aubrey Abbot Patterson for the story and photos*

# Rotary Foundation News

## Two new Major Donors recognized

**Steen Mortensen** and **Steve English**, both members of the **Rotary Club of Wichita**, were recently presented with their Major Donor recognition. Major Donor recognition is awarded to couples or individuals who have contributed \$10,000 to The Rotary Foundation (TRF). The recognition includes an engraved crystal and Major Donor lapel pin. Both Steen and Steve are members of the **Paul Harris Society (PHS)**. PHS members agree to contribute at least \$1,000 per year to TRF as long as they are Rotarians.



*Congratulations Steen and Steve!*

## Join the Paul Harris Society!

A faster way to reach Major Donor status is to join our District 5690 Paul Harris Society (see above). To join, please contact PDG [Geri Appel](#), PHS Committee Chair. When you join, you agree to contribute at least \$1,000 per year to The Rotary Foundation. You will receive a certificate of thanks along with a PHS insignia to be worn with your Paul Harris Fellow or Rotary pin.



## What our Partners in Polio Eradication are Saying

**“ROTARY CONTINUES TO BE THE HEART AND SOUL OF POLIO ERADICATION.”**

*Bill Gates, Cochair, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation*

**“FAILURE TO ERADICATE POLIO IS UNFORGIVABLE, FOREVER.”**

*Margaret Chan, Director-General, World Health Organization*

**“WE’RE WORKING TO ENSURE THAT THE POLIOVIRUS WILL BE FOUND ONLY IN HISTORY BOOKS AND NOT IN CHILDREN.”**

*Robert S. Scott, Chair, International PolioPlus Committee, Rotary International*

**“WE HAVE THE ABILITY TO PROTECT EVERY LAST PERSON, ESPECIALLY CHILDREN, FROM THIS ENTIRELY PREVENTABLE DISEASE.”**

*Anthony Lake, Executive Director, UNICEF*

**“POLIO ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD IS A RISK EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD.”**

*Thomas Frieden, Director, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*



## Rotary Club of Andover projects in Zimbabwe



In November, we became aware of an immediate need for two schools in Zimbabwe from club members **Ron and Lori Kutter** who have been engaged in leadership roles with the

Chiredzi River African Wildlife Trust (CRAWT - <http://crawt.org/>) for several years. CRAWT is working to create a long term sustainable relationship between the people of Zimbabwe and the wildlife that makes the region so special. Towards this end CRAWT seeks to encourage settlement in approved areas by supporting schools, providing medicines, establishing reliable sources of clean water, and many other initiatives.



The Andover club purchased a generator that will supply the school in Ruware, Zimbabwe with over 600 students with a clean and reliable supply of water because the water tank they used was almost empty.

In addition, the club sponsored a matching grant program to provide students at the Zvidosvevanhu school in Zimbabwe with benches and desks so that they don't have to sit on the ground to receive their lessons. The desks are being sourced and built locally in Zimbabwe to help support the local economy which is an added benefit. We are working towards several exciting future projects in conjunction with CRAWT in Zimbabwe for next year so stay tuned in!

District 5690	MEMBERSHIP REPORT as of October 31, 2015			
	7/1/2015	10/31/2015	NET GAIN	Goal
	MEMBERSHIP	MEMBERSHIP	2015-2016	
Andover	23	26	3	28
Arkansas City	61	63	2	75
Beaver	24	22	-2	
Boise City	15	16	1	15
Cimarron	26	25	-1	27
Derby	65	65	0	
Dodge City	34	34	0	44
East Wichita	122	121	-1	
El Dorado	49	50	1	56
Garden City	42	41	-1	
Greensburg	11	9	-2	
Guymon	27	27	0	
Hugoton	22	22	0	
Hutchinson	120	114	-6	
Johnson	16	18	2	20
Kingman	32	32	0	37
Kinsley	14	15	1	
Larned	19	18	-1	
Liberal	44	46	2	47
Newton	53	56	3	62
Pratt	60	56	-4	
Sublette	14	14	0	
Syracuse	15	15	0	
Texhoma	19	19	0	
Ulysses	38	39	1	42
Wellington	19	18	-1	
W. Sedgwick Co	44	44	0	
West Wichita	63	65	2	70
Wichita-DT	384	383	-1	425
Wichita-Old Town	13	12	-1	
Winfield	88	93	5	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1576</b>	<b>1578</b>	<b>2</b>	

Thank you for entering your goals on Rotary Club Central!



District 5690

[www.rotary5690.org](http://www.rotary5690.org)

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

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Be a gift to the world

2015-2016 RI Theme  
K R (Ravi) Ravindran  
Sri Lanka

Rotary International  
Convention  
May 28-June 1, 2016  
Seoul Korea



What Paul Harris Said

Our Foundation  
Newsletter

Receive RGHF's history features in your inbox. Just subscribe at [www.historyfeatures.org](http://www.historyfeatures.org)

