



District 5690 News



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*Ambassadorial Scholar
Andrew Hawkins
sends his thanks and
final report
(A MUST READ)*



Message from District Governor

David Yoder



Dear 5690 Rotarians,

District Conference Celebration

On October 2-3, the Newton Club hosted our annual District Conference at the new Meridian Convention Center.

For those of you who attended, I believe you will all agree that we had a GREAT District Conference. We had, as promised, a lot of fun, great speakers, some real surprises, and lively entertainment.



John Smarge, past Rotary International Director, gave us two lively and passionate presentations about his journey through Rotary service. His presentation on Haiti

was very moving and unforgettable.



Ron Denham presented us with a lot to think about in the world of clean water and sanitation, an area many believe may be the future major focus of RI. John is one of the co-founders of WASRAG, the

Water And Sanitation Rotary Action Group, an organization to which my wife Lori and I



are proud to be members.

Dick Jones, a PDG from District 5520 and our Zone Membership Coordinator,



gave us an update on our Zone's focus on membership recruitment and retention efforts, and along with PDG **Martin Bauer** provided information on our Membership Cadre and our progress on developing a 3-year membership visioning plan for our District.

We were graced with a very fun-loving and positive **RI President's Representative** in **Valarie Wafer**, a Past District Governor from District 7070 in Toronto, Canada.



She gave us an enlightening and entertaining message. And geese. For those of you who attended, you understand. Those that missed, well, you'll have to ask someone who attended for the inside story. *Read more on the next page . .*

*Thanks to District Photographer Bob Obee
for the photos taken at District Conference!*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

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

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

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

Nov. 2-8, 2015
Celebrate World Interact Week

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

Message from District Governor David Yoder (cont'd)



Kenon Brinkley, a 2015 graduate of Andover High School, provided us with an amazing and moving presentation on Saturday, giving us his 2015 National Forensic and Debate Tournament-winning presentation. You had to be there to believe what you saw and heard.

Our first-ever **Spelling Beer** competition was a rousing and lively event on Friday night, featuring a rumbling and mostly bumbling PDG Rod Kreie making a mostly-futile attempt to properly pronounce the challenge words. 14 clubs sent competitor representatives who took the challenge, and began rapidly dropping like flies until only two remained.



And it took quite a few rounds of challenge words before **Tammy Allen** of the Downtown Wichita Rotary club finally emerged victoriously. Oh yes, there was also a Rodney Dangerfield and Clint Eastwood sighting that night....

A very momentous occasion occurred on Saturday morning, when after our District Trainer Fred Heismeyer gave us all a resounding program on **Big Ideas – Bold Results**, we announced that our District 5690 Board voted to terminate the District Conference Reserve Fund and return all the money to the clubs proportionately to the amount paid into the Fund, totaling over \$118,000! Many thanks to PDG Ron Kincannon, who as the District Governor who created the Fund, attended the Conference



and gave us the history of the Fund and was there for its conclusion. Remember, folks, to **Dream Big** with the funds and **Be The Ripple** that spreads goodwill throughout your communities.

My sincerest thanks to all for making this an outstanding event, especially to my Conference Planning Committee, spearheaded by Rod Kreie, and the great efforts from Newton Club members Kent Erb, Tom Williams, Kim Manning, Tim Marler, Jasper Eicher, and Andy Lowe.

Thanks to all of you who attended. What we lacked in numbers you more than made up for in enthusiasm. Next year, DGE Dean Kennedy will undoubtedly have another great District Conference in Winfield. Don't miss it!

David Yoder
District Governor 2015-16
Rotary Club of Newton



2014-15 District Service Above Self Winner **Donna Meier Pfeifer**

Surely the most surprised Rotarian at District Conference was **Donna Meier Pfeifer** who was named the 2014-2015 Service Above Self winner by PDG Martin Bauer.



Donna was recognized and thanked for her years of service as District Grants Chair as well as



for her humanitarian service through the American Red Cross.

CONGRATULATIONS, Donna!

ROTARIAN CODE OF CONDUCT

AS A ROTARIAN, I will...

1. Act with integrity and high ethical standards in my personal and professional life.
2. Deal fairly with others and treat them and their occupations with respect.
3. Use my professional skills through Rotary to: mentor young people, help those with special needs, and improve people's quality of life in my community and in the world.
4. Avoid behavior that reflects adversely on Rotary or other Rotarians.

Is Your Club's Planning - the "S" Word? (part 2 of 2)

Last month we introduced the concept of Strategic Planning and the first three of the six stages in the process. In part two of this article we focus on the remaining six stages in the process.

Stage 4: Long Term Objectives

Within the most important strategic areas, identify what must happen to move the club closer to accomplishing its mission and strategy. These objectives should be broad and visionary.

Write the objectives using the following format: "To have (or become) ... (the results) ... by ... (year)".

Stage 5: Implementation

A comparison with the current strategy should be undertaken at this stage. An examination of the structure and operations of the club must be carried out to ensure a fit with the newly stated strategy or objectives. Areas to be scrutinized, and possibly changed, include:

allocation of resources: will enough resources be available for the highest ranked strategic area? What do we cut back to free up resources?

organization structure: are roles and responsibilities adequately defined? Are committees in place to deal with objectives?

information systems: what will be the club's communication needs? Feedback on results?

people responsible: are there people identified as "in charge" or "a champion" of each objective?

reward systems: how will people be recognized or rewarded for achieving results?

The time frame for implementation should reflect the scope of the required change. In addition, some sort of ongoing criteria and techniques for evaluation should be

established.

Stage 6: Operation Plan

Finally, short-term objectives (e.g., one year) are set based on the long-term objective. These will include activities and programs. The written analysis employed for these objectives should be similar to those used when developing long-term objectives.

The result should be a map of activities or programs, responsibilities of people, resource allocations, and a time frame for the next planning period.

In subsequent years, if checks for fit indicate that no changes to the strategy or long-term objectives are required; this stage will be the only required planning activity.

The Planning Process - Hints

- Strike a planning committee to undertake the strategic planning task.
- The benefit of involving the whole board or membership at certain stages (for reaction or ideas) is increased awareness and sense of ownership of the plan.
- Allow plenty of time! There should be gaps in time between certain stages (e.g., stages 3 and 4) for reaction, reflection and checking facts.
- In many cases, using an outside facilitator for the process can help minimize members' biases, challenge assumptions, and allow all members to contribute equally.
- Allow for lots of brainstorming, especially in stages 1 and 2. This allows new ideas to be considered.

Continued on next page . . .

United States - Russia
Intercountry Committee



Congratulations to **Kurt Harper (RC Wichita)** who was recently elected to serve as US Section President of the US-Russia Intercountry Committee in 2016-17. D5690 is a member district of the committee and Kurt is our district representative of the committee.

**World Interact Week is
November 2-8, 2015**

Interact
Rotary Sponsored Club



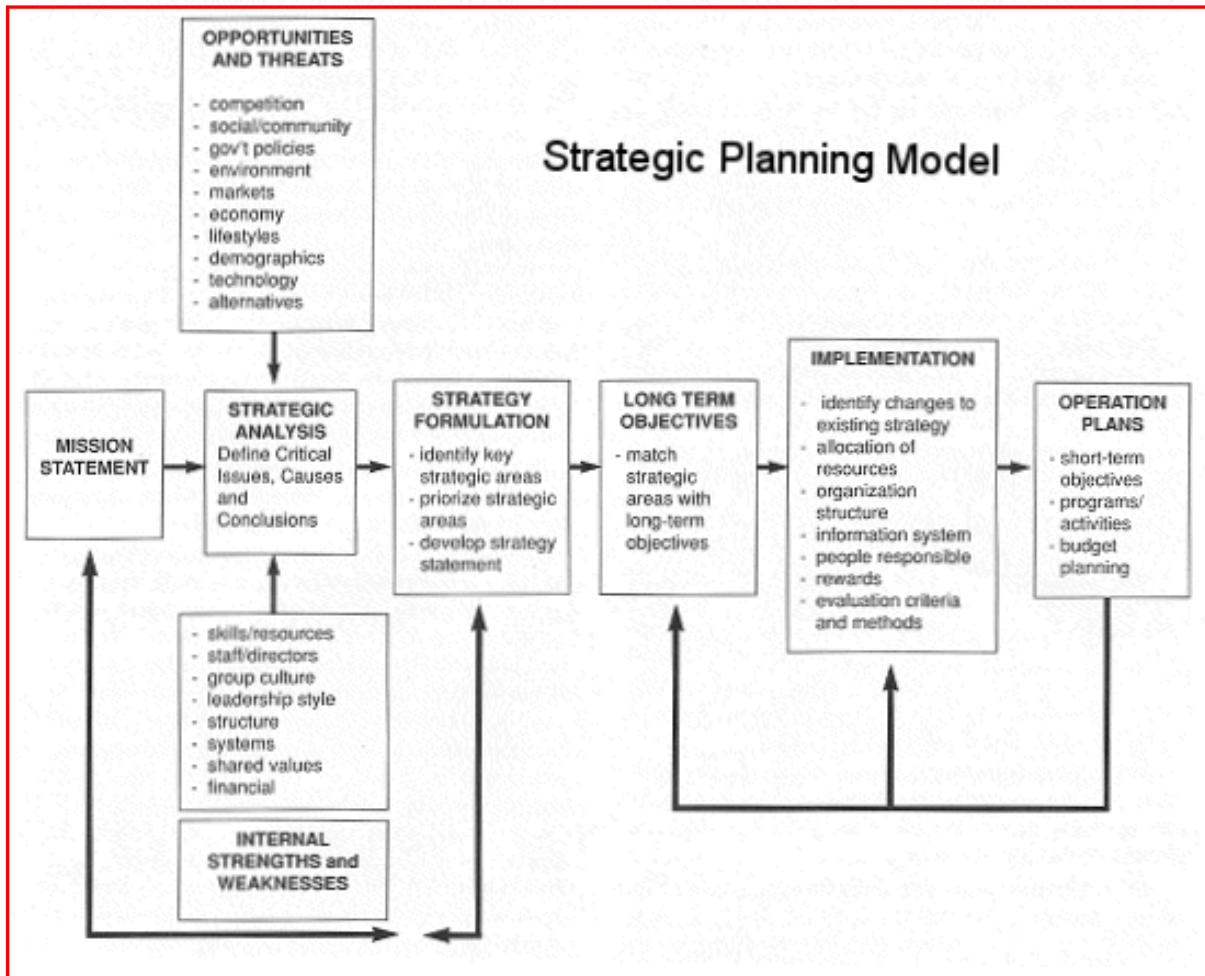
The "Ovation Factor" (continued)

Conclusion

Strategic planning is a thought process as well as a plan. Part of developing sound strategies is learning to think strategically, learning how to ask questions and to think broadly and creatively.



Column submitted by Fred Heismeyer,
District 5690 Trainer



Rotary Club of Kingman Annual Soup Supper to support foster children



Rotarian Jon Wollen greets visitors

On Thursday, October 15th, 2015, the **Rotary Club of Kingman** held its annual Soup Supper fundraiser at the Kingman VFW hall. Rotarians served chili, vegetable beef and potato soups, along with pies for dessert. Despite the warm autumn day, there was a great attendance for the dinner. Funds raised at this event will be used for the club's ongoing project for the foster children of Kingman county. The project includes providing a special Christmas party, gifts and necessities to the foster children.



Delicious Desserts

Rotarians Served at the fundraiser



Club News from around the District

Rotary Club W.

Wichita: We painted a play-ground map at Lawrence Elementary in late September.



Rotary Club Wichita: Nearly 400 Rotarians, families and guests attended exclusive access for our Evening at the Zoo where we enjoyed a great picnic dinner and a personal tour of the new

exhibit



Mark Reed & Guests

"Elephants of the Zambezi River Valley." Zoo Director and Rotary member **Mark Reed** hosted the event as one of our evening Fireside meetings.



New Elephant Barn

Rotary Club Wichita: Club members were busy building our Habitat For Humanity house the week of Sept. 28. President **Clay Bastian** was one of them!



Rotary Club Hutchinson:

Members helped with the Boys & Girls Club greenhouse project and participated in the Heartwalk. Member Sharla Meisenheimer was named 2015 Community Development Volunteer of the year for the Greater Wichita YMCA. Congratulations!

Rotary Club Hutchinson: Our Boys & Girls Club of Hutchinson's Greenhouse grant project is to repair and purchase a hydroponic system. This will expand the club's Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Agriculture and Match (STeAM) opportunities for students in the community. Club members are working alongside community youth to clean and prepare the greenhouse for replacing and repairing greenhouse panels, lift windows, rubber seals and broken or missing support pieces. They also level gravel and prepare areas for installment of two hydroponic systems. Also, Rotarians will prepare, assemble and install two hydroponic plant systems.

Rotary Club Wichita: Rtn Balbir and Treva Mathur recently hosted Chris Figureida during his trip through Wichita. Chris bikes across the globe promoting healthy heart



awareness collaborating with the American Heart Association, especially to school-age children. He has ridden over 28,000 miles around the US speaking to over 55,500 students and meeting with local, state and federal officials to raise awareness and fund for the AMA and Ro-

tary International's Polio Plus program. He is in his 9th ride of 2,800 miles in 55 days starting in Winnipeg Canada to Brownsville, TX. Check out the Cycle for Heart website to learn more <http://www.cycleforheart.org/>

Rotary Club Dodge City: On Sept 25, members of the Dodge City Rotary Club rolled up their sleeves to help with a "campus cleanup" at the Youthville ranch in Dodge City. This was a collabo-



rated effort with City of Dodge City staff, and several



other volunteer groups. (After having both of their mowers break down, and several maintenance/grounds people quit, things had gotten quite overgrown by the end of summer). . .

Rotary Club Ulysses: We always try to extend the fun of the duck race to when we have to clean and re-sort them to ensure they are ready to go for race day again next year.



Rotary Club E. Wichita: Our annual turkey dinner delivery to 80 families is the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Dinners are \$50 and paid for by club members' voluntary contributions.

Rotary Club Wichita: Former MLB baseball player Steve Sax delivered an encouraging message to the high school students in the audience for Career Day about following their dream no matter the obstacles.



Rotary Club El Dorado: Rotary club members once again became gatekeepers in September 2015 with the start of the 2015 WHS football season. For over 20 years

MORE News from around the District

the club has assisted the local high school through this volunteer effort, by taking tickets for regular season and playoff games. Focusing on projecting a positive image for our community, the club has always requested to serve on the visitor's side, and enjoys greeting our guests as they arrive to the stadium. GO CRUSADERS!

Rotary Club W. Sedgwick County: All Rotarians are invited to join us for our Fall Playscape Clean-up on Saturday, October 24.

Rotary Club E. Wichita: The Kansas Humane Society and Wichita Festivals were beneficiaries of donations from our club. Both organizations thanked the club and explained how our donations are being used to benefit the community.

Rotary Club Newton: Our poker fund-raiser will be held on November 14. It's OK to lose every hand to benefit charity!

Rotary Club Johnson: Rtn Roger Hurst (r) invited Paul Reynolds (l), Sr. Manager, Sunflower Electric Power, to discuss the challenges created by environmental regulations to their industry in SW Kansas. Very informative and valuable.



Rotary Club Wichita: We were pleased to hear from WSU Coach Gregg Marshall discuss the upcoming season at a recent meeting.



Did you know?

- The **Club & District Administration** pages on Rotary.org have been retooled to make it easier for you to **manage your clubs**. You'll find all the tools and resources you need to update membership, pay club dues, see contribution reports, locate a Rotary coordinator and more—and you can do it all more simply than ever.

Read more about the changes: <http://www.rotaryleader-en.org/rotaryleader-en/en201509?pg=6#pg6>
Create your own quick links and find answers to FAQ: <https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/user/login?destination=cda>

Open World Program

The **West Wichita** club sponsored an **Open World** Team September 27 – October 2. The club's International Service Committees lined up activities for team members related to their theme, Entrepreneurship and Accountable Government, along with some fun evening outings. The team consisted of:



Facilitator - Mariya Sveshnikova (Moscow), University English teacher

Delegates:

Yekatrina Postoyeva (Volgograd), Director of ice cream company

Liana Sladkomedova (St. Petersburg), Manager of stage, theater & concert events

Dmitriy Yevdokimov (Ryazan), Director for manufacturer of plastic products

Tatyana Yuzenas (Kirov), Content Manager & web editor

Irina Nosyreva (Ryazan), Deputy to director of manufacturer of light metalware & playground equipment

Translator - **Olga Shotstachuk**

The delegation sent their sincere appreciation to all in Wichita for their hospitality and generosity during their visit.

They have returned to their home country and communities with a greater understanding of entrepreneurship in the United States and with goodwill toward America in their hearts that they will share with others.

Thank you to everyone who played a role in hosting, entertaining and assisting our Russian guests during their visit to Wichita and the U.S.



The Open World team enjoyed a fun evening at Pinot's Palette



Team at the Zoo

MORE News from around the District

Rotary Club of Liberal uses District Grant Funds to make a difference with suicide prevention.



Liberal Club President Al Shank thanking participants at training in August

On August 10, 2015 the Liberal Club hosted the first stage of trainings to help prevent suicide in Liberal, KS. Participants included the counselors of USD480, Seward County Community College, and staff from Southwest Guidance Center. Together with staff from the Headquarters Counseling Center, participants learned how to facilitate both the Be-A-Link! And Ask-4-Help! Suicide prevention and outreach programs developed by Yellow Ribbon. The Yellow Ribbon program is designed to increase awareness and prevent suicide among teens and young adults.



On October 27 and 29, the Liberal Club will host the first **Be-A-Link!** classes for teachers of USD480 and SCCC respectfully. Rotarians will be on hand to both introduce the program as well as provide participant handouts and Ask-4-Help! Cards. Rotarians have also posted over

200 suicide prevention posters around Liberal, KS that provide more information about how to use the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1.800.273.TALK). For more information contact Leslie Bissell, project chair at psydswan@gmail.com or at 620-624-8171.

The Rotary Clubs of Andover and

El Dorado have teamed up with Butler County Community College (BCCC) to encourage bone marrow donation with their **Be the Match** project. There are many partners in this effort: the college, the Student Government Association, the Butler Student Nurses Association and Be The Match provided materials, testing kits and trained clinic workers on the day of the awareness drive, October 27 on the El Dorado campus of BCC. Another awareness drive will be held on the Andover Campus in the spring.

Club members of both Rotary Clubs were at the Bone Marrow Registry Drive at Butler County Community College where individuals could get swabbed, and learn how they could be just the right person to save a life by possibly being a bone marrow donor. If someone is lucky enough to be a match to one suffering from a blood cancer, the donation process is generally as simple as a blood transfusion, and a life can be saved.



Chris McGill, at right is a bone marrow recipient. He and Troy Nordman at left are Andover Rotarians. Also pictured are Butler Community College student government members



Photos by Jay Moorman, Rotary Club of El Dorado Rotary president



The **Rotary Club of Newton** is holding its 2nd annual Texas Hold'em Tournament on Saturday, **November 14**, 2015 at the Kansas Army National Guard Armory, 400 Grandview, Newton, Kansas. Meal and drink for all players; meal at 5:30 pm. Registration is \$50 and cards fly at 7:00 p.m.

Payout is \$1,500 and 20% bonus chips if registered by November 9. Proceeds to fund local youth projects. For information, contact Glen Davis at 316-283-8976, or mail your check to Rotary Club of Newton, PO Box 14, Newton, KS 67114..

District Conference was great!



District Club of the Year

And the award went to . . . **NEWTON!** PDG Martin Bauer presented the award to club members with congratulations for the number of club members participating in projects at both the local and international level.

Congratulations!



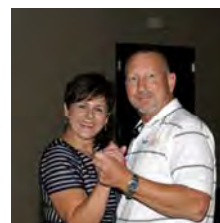
Sam Muyskens
(RC Wichita) received the **Ozzie Goering International Service Award** for his work in Haiti for more than 20 years

Congratulations, Sam!



It was great to have our guests **John Smarge and wife Cindy** in D5690 again!

Past RI Director John made us think about membership and who our target audience really is.



RI President's Rep

Valarie Wafer was fun and an inspiration!



Youth Exchange Students at District Conference!

L-R:

Tessa Saehlbrandt (Germany)
Teo Soler (France)
Juana Jardon (Spain)
Amy Smith (Taiwan)



Kenon Brinkley
With PDG Rod Kreie and DG David Kenon wowed the crowd!



Wichita club president-elect **Tammy Allen** is heading to Seoul Korea for the Rotary International Convention! (And she also won the Spelling Beer!)

(Taken at District Conference by Martin Limbird)



Martin Limbird and his wife Catherine visited our conference and promoted both the RI Convention in Seoul and leaving a legacy gift through the Rotary Foundation.

Thank you Martin!

Photos courtesy of Bob Obee, RC Kinsley

District Conference was great!



**District Trainer
Fred Heismeyer**
kept us busy and
entertained
throughout the
meeting!



2015 Spelling Bee(r) at District Conference

*Those were tricky words—not helped
by the pronunciation of the emcee(s)*



*The winner was
Tammy Allen
(Wichita)*



**District Governor
Elect Dean
Kennedy
(Winfield)** encour-
aged us to Dream
Big!

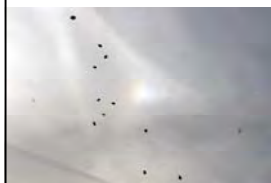


**Special thanks
to Bob Obee
RC Kinsley for
the great
photos!**



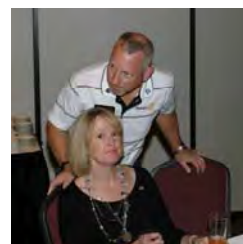
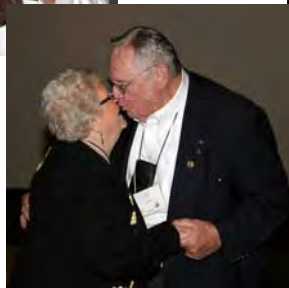
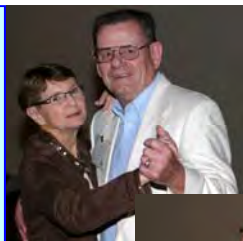
*Rotarians who had passed away during
the past year were remembered with a
balloon launch. The windy day helped—
except when a couple got caught in the
nearby fence.*

Not to worry, they were set free.



**District Governor Nomi-
nee Robert Mendoza
(Derby)** gave us a history
of how our global grants
funded by the Rotary
Foundation Grants have
changed the world

**And then
there was
dancing . . .
And kissing!**



September was Basic Education & Literacy Month—but it's never too late

Literacy can be defined as the state of being literate, especially the ability to read and write. It also lies in the ability of an individual's capacity to put those skills to work in shaping the course of his or her life. Genuine literacy involves 'reading the word and the world'.

Literacy is both a right in itself and an instrument for achieving other rights. The 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes the right to education. In modern societies, literacy skills are fundamental to informed decision-making, personal empowerment, active and passive participation in local and global social community.

Basic Education refers to the whole range of educational activities taking place in various settings (formal, non-formal and informal) that aim to meet basic learning needs. It comprises Primary education and lower Secondary education. In developing countries like those in Africa, Basic Education often includes adult literacy programs. No matter how much we hate waking up early for school or studying all night for those tests and exams, we all know that education is very important. I am not saying that an uneducated man has no chance of being successful or that an educated man will surely do well in life. Exceptions are always there. However, an educated person gets better opportunities in life.

Countries with high literacy rates are extremely prosperous and the citizens have a high per capita income. On the other hand, in African Countries where literacy rate is not as high, a number of people are still living below the poverty line. Education provides us with knowledge about the world. It paves the way for a good career. It helps build character. It leads to enlightenment. Education makes a man complete.

Benjamin Franklin wrote "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest" while Victor Hugo wrote that: "He who opens a school door, closes a prison."

In your Rotary Clubs and Districts, promote the acquisition of Basic Education and sponsor Adult literacy programs today. That is the only way the faith that befell Mr. Goodman can be completely averted in this world. It cannot happen by mere wishes.

*Article courtesy of PDG Lawrence Okwor,
ROTA (Reach Out to Africa) Secretary*

Editor's note: Mr. Goodman is a man who entrusted all his property to a brother who could read and write. At his death, Mr. Goodman realized it was all lost because he did not follow his own father's advice to get an education. All was lost to the brother at his death.

November is Rotary Foundation Month

Be sure to promote the Rotary Foundation throughout November! Has your club met its goal for the year? Has your club even set a goal? As the caption above says, "It's never too late." Please provide your club goal for Rotary Foundation giving to our District Rotary Foundation Committee Chair, Robert Mendoza (robertmendoza@derbyweb.com) or to the District Executive, Curtis Dick (cdick3@cox.com)!

A thought on Membership . . . Retention

Our intentions on retention are good. Then again, Poet Samuel Johnson is credited with saying, "Hell is paved with good intentions." Let's get personally involved and get highly intentional about membership retention! It is in the highest and best interest of Rotary and all Rotarians.

By David Norris, Rotary Coordinator, Zone 21B in the Zone 21b-27 October 2015 Newsletter

"Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope. It is a tool for daily life in modern society. It is a bulwark against poverty, and a building block of development, an essential complement to investments in roads, dams, clinics and factories. Literacy is a platform for democratization, and a vehicle for the promotion of cultural and national identity. Especially for girls and women, it is an agent of family health and nutrition. For everyone, everywhere, literacy is, along with education in general, a basic human right... Literacy is, finally, the road to human progress and the means through which every man, woman and child can realize his or her full potential."

~Kofi Annan

Rotary Foundation News

World Health Organization (WHO) Declares Polio is no longer Endemic in Nigeria



Polio is no longer endemic in Nigeria, which means that it has conquered the disease, the World Health Organization declared on Friday, September 25, 2015. Polio remains endemic in just **two** countries, Pakistan and Afghanistan, which have never eliminated the virus. As of last month, all of Africa had gone a full year without a case of polio paralysis.

The last case anywhere in Africa was detected in Somalia on Aug. 11, 2014; it was caused by a strain of the virus that had originated in Nigeria. The last case in Nigeria was recorded on July 24, 2014. Despite Friday's announcement, Nigeria cannot be declared "polio free" until two more years have passed with no paralysis cases and no virus detected in sewage. As recently as 2012, Nigeria accounted for more than half of all the world's polio cases.

Article courtesy of "Our Foundation" newsletter, PDG Eddie Blender, Publisher

Rotary Foundation earns four-star rating from Charity Navigator

For the eighth straight year, The Rotary Foundation has earned a four-star rating from Charity Navigator, the largest and most prestigious independent evaluator of non-profits in the United States. The rating, which is the highest that Charity Navigator assigns, reflects The Rotary Foundation's sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency. Learn more about this and other recent announcements [here](#).

Rotary Day at the UN

[Register online](#) to take part in **Rotary Day at the United Nations on 7 November**. This annual event at UN Headquarters in New York City offers Rotary members and others a unique opportunity to learn how we work with the United Nations to advance peace and improve the lives of those most in need.

This year's meeting highlights the UN's 70th anniversary and Rotary's longstanding relationship with the organization. The program will focus on the Sustainable Development Goals and recognize Rotary women of action from around the world.

Attendees are invited to meet at Rockefeller Center the morning of the event for a group appearance on NBC's Today Show. [Learn more](#).

Interactors and Rotary Youth Exchange participants can attend a youth session in the morning and then join the adult session in the afternoon. Tickets to the youth session will go on sale 21 September. [Save the event on Eventbrite](#).

Get more information about [Rotary-UN Day](#)

Observe World Polio Day

To mark World Polio Day, RI hosted a live-streamed global status update from New York on **October 23**. The event recognized recent milestones achieved in the fight to end polio as well as focus on the work that remains to be done. You can still help observe World Polio Day by raising awareness of Rotary's polio eradication efforts. Click this link for more information:

<http://www.rotaryleader-en.org/rotaryleader-en/en201509?pg=2#pg2>

Every Rotarian Every Year Webinar on November 3

The Rotary Foundation's Annual Fund helps Rotarians do good in their communities and around the world. On November 3 from 10-11:00 a.m. learn more about the Foundation's Annual Fund, why donors choose to support it, and hear tips from other Rotarians for strengthening giving in your club.

[Sign up today](#) and reserve your spot to hear from Rotarians panelists and staff as they share their expertise and answer your questions! Click Here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6089946785843567617>

Estate Planning Tips & Rotary Legacy

Wednesday, October 28, 2015—2:30 –3:30 pm CST

If you are approaching your retirement years or just planning ahead, join us for a free webinar. A Rotarian financial planner will give an overview of tax and estate planning basics and review practical ideas that you can discuss with your advisors. No matter how comfortable you are with your existing plans, we hope you take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about how you can make sure that your legacy reflects your goals and values.

[Click here to register now!](#)
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8988778406237452033>

MEMBERSHIP REPORT as of September 30, 2015				
	7/1/2015	9/30/2015	NET GAIN	Goal
	MEMBERSHIP	MEMBERSHIP	2015-2016	
Andover	23	25	2	
Arkansas City	61	63	2	75
Beaver	24	24	0	
Boise City	15	16	1	15
Cimarron	26	25	-1	27
Derby	65	63	-2	
Dodge City	34	34	0	44
East Wichita	122	120	-2	
El Dorado	49	51	2	
Garden City	42	41	-1	
Greensburg	11	11	0	
Guymon	27	27	0	
Hugoton	22	22	0	
Hutchinson	120	113	-7	
Johnson	16	16	0	20
Kingman	32	32	0	37
Kinsley	14	14	0	
Larned	19	18	-1	
Liberal	44	45	1	47
Newton	53	56	3	62
Pratt	60	59	-1	
Sublette	14	14	0	
Syracuse	15	15	0	
Texhoma	19	19	0	
Ulysses	38	37	-1	42
Wellington	19	19	0	
W. Sedgwick Co	44	45	1	
West Wichita	63	65	2	70
Wichita-DT	384	384	0	425
Wichita-Old Town	13	13	0	
Winfield	88	93	5	
TOTALS	1576	1579	3	

Thank you for entering your goals on Rotary Club Central!

Andrew Hawkins, 2014-15 Ambassadorial Scholar, wants to speak to your club!



Last year, our newsletter included reports from **District Ambassadorial Scholar Andrew J. Hawkins**, sponsored by the **Rotary Club of Garden City**, during his year studying at Uppsala University in Sweden as he completed his master's degree in *International Security Studies*. He has completed his studies and is now in his hometown of Garden City and eager and willing to speak to your club to share his experiences in Sweden and the Czech Republic as well as to extend his sincere

gratitude to your club for supporting The Rotary Foundation which made his scholarship possible.

Contact him at 620-521-5939 or at hawkins.andrewjames@gmail.com. Or contact PDG Phil Michel at 316-213-5515 or phil_michel2001@yahoo.com, who is helping him arrange his visiting schedule.

Andrew sent his thanks in a letter and final report—both worth reading—to us. *Please take the time to read them at the end of this newsletter.*

Congratulations, Andrew, and thank you for representing District 5690 as our scholar in 2014-15!



District 5690

www.rotary5690.org

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

PDG Geri Appel, Editor
Phone: 316-733-7030
Fax: 316-733-5077
appelg@kenlerman.com



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2015-2016 RI Theme
K R (Ravi) Ravindran
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May 28-June 1, 2016
Seoul Korea



What Paul Harris Said

Our Foundation Newsletter



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October 20, 2015

Andrew J. Hawkins

2212 Belmont Pl
Garden City, KS 67846
hawkins.andrewjames@gmail.com

Rotary District 5690

Dear friends of Rotary District 5690,

It is my sincere pleasure to report to you that I have now successfully completed my graduate studies and have been awarded a master's degree in International Security Studies from Charles University in Prague. My studies culminated in June upon successfully passing my final state exams and defending my master's dissertation, and came to a formal conclusion in September when I was awarded my diploma during the stately graduation ceremony held each year in the old halls of King Charles IV auditorium.

Before completing the final requirements of my degree program at my home university, I had the rare opportunity to spend the 2014/15 academic year studying and conducting research at Uppsala University in Sweden at the renowned Department of Peace and Conflict Research as a Rotary District 5690 Ambassadorial Scholarship holder.

This opportunity was truly a remarkable experience and enabled me to gain a wealth of knowledge and skills that I would not have otherwise been able to obtain. I was able to not only study and conduct research at one of the world's most preeminent institutions involved in the study of modern conflict resolution, but also afforded the opportunity to live and work alongside other likeminded individuals from a wide variety of countries which enabled me to gain invaluable insight into a number of different cultures. Furthermore, and most importantly I believe, was the opportunity which allowed me to represent Rotary District 5690 abroad. Working closely with several of the local Rotary clubs in Uppsala, I had the opportunity to give presentations about our district, learn about the local Uppsala clubs, become involved in the Uppsala Rotaract club, and was even invited to participate in several Rotary activities in the area. As a result, this opportunity truly enabled me to put Rotary's guiding principles to practice, as I strove to advance international understanding, peace, and goodwill on behalf of our district.

These opportunities, however, would not have been possible had it not been for the kind and generous support provided by Rotary District 5690. Before submitting my final newsletter detailing my academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my most sincere gratitude to all members of Rotary District 5690 for making this opportunity a possibility. It was an honor and indeed a privilege to represent you abroad, and I am exceedingly grateful for the opportunity.

Now that I am back in Garden City, I would like to visit and speak to as many District clubs as possible to share my experiences in Sweden and the Czech Republic, as well as to extend my sincere gratitude for club support in person. If your club would like for me to come and speak at one of your meetings, I can be reached at 620-521-5939 or at hawkins.andrewjames@gmail.com. You may also contact PDG Phil Michel at 316-213-5515 or at phil_michel2001@yahoo.com, who will be helping me arrange my visiting schedule. I look forward to hearing from you and meeting with you soon!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Hawkins', with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Andrew J. Hawkins



Rotary District 5690 Ambassadorial Scholarship Year in Review

AUGUST 2014-SEPTEMBER 2015

Footsteps away from the bustling commotion of Prague's St. Wenceslas Square, and tucked tightly away on a quaint, narrow, cobblestoned street, stands an elegant, yet unimposing structure bearing the name of Charles University. From its outside appearance, passersby would not be remiss if they mistook the structure for a mere administrative building. However, upon stepping inside and navigating through a warren of dimly lit corridors adorned with paintings and portraits of past scholars, one enters the Grand Aula of King Charles IV and is immediately whisked back in time to an age long passed. Built in 1348, this auditorium is the oldest standing structure of the university since its founding in the same year. Today, its function is largely ceremonial, where countless women and men have stood over the centuries in eager anticipation as they await their name to be called to walk— in stately fashion— to an elevated alter and place two fingers on the golden scepter of King Charles IV, and recite the traditional Latin words of *spondeo ac polliceor*, before being presented their diplomas by the Dean. At this time one month ago, it was my turn to stand in this great hall, recite my *pledge and promise* to my now alma mater, and be presented with a master's degree in *International Security Studies*.

Two years of hard work and seemingly endless research had now come to a formal conclusion. Degree in hand, I exited the Great Auditorium and made my way through the winding cobblestone streets leading to Old Town Square. Much to my initial surprise, elation could not describe my feelings at the time. Rather, a reserved sense of achievement and the solemn feeling of knowing that my study program was now over enveloped me as I looked back reminiscently on the past year.

As I looked back, I could think of only a single word to describe the previous year— opportunity. At this time last year I was just settling in to my new home in Uppsala,



Top: Uppsala Cathedral shimmering against the Fyris River. Above: Pledging an oath of academic excellence on the golden Scepter of King Charles IV in the Great Auditorium.

Sweden. Made possible only through the support of Rotary District 5690, I was able to participate in a once in a lifetime one-year study abroad exchange program at Uppsala University within the university's prestigious Department of Peace and Conflict Research. The program was organized through my home university in Prague, and made possible only by the kind and generous support of each of the members of District 5690.

In Uppsala, I was able to study alongside other like-minded researchers from a diverse range of cultural backgrounds and belief systems and attended a number of seminars and courses which focused directly on finding sustainable peaceful solutions to complex contemporary conflicts in South Asia, the Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa, and Eastern Europe. Furthermore, I had access to extremely knowledgeable academic staff and state of the art research facilities and resources which I was able to consult and utilize to conduct research for my final master's dissertation which

focused on peacekeeping efforts in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. These resources, many of which are unavailable at my home university in Prague, proved invaluable upon receiving a nomination from my thesis supervisor for the Dean's Award for outstanding research.

In addition to world-class education and resources related to conflict resolution and sustainable peace solutions, I had the unique opportunity to take courses taught in Swedish and thus improve my speaking, reading, and writing skills in that language. Furthermore, I was able to take courses at the university's Iranian Studies Institute and gain a basic understanding of the Persian (Farsi) language, which I hope to utilize in future efforts to facilitate sustainable peace in the South Asian region, and to work towards bridging diplomatic relations between the U.S and Iran.

While these were indeed fantastic aspects of my stay in Uppsala, I am most grateful for the friendships I was able to forge through working with several of the local Rotary clubs in Uppsala. Upon arrival in Uppsala, I reached out to several local Rotary clubs to express my interest in meeting and cooperating with them on behalf of our District. It took some time to receive a reply and an offer to join a local meeting; however, once I was in...I was in! The Uppsala Aros Rotary Club was my first point of contact and they welcomed me with open arms. Early in October, I was able to attend an Aros breakfast meeting as the guest of PDF Staffan Björklund, where I gave a detailed presentation about Kansas and Rotary District 5690, and in return learned about the history of their club.

From that point on, Aros served as my adoptive Rotary club in Uppsala and invited me to several additional meetings and Rotary events. Most helpful, however, was Aros' introducing me to the local Uppsala Rotaract Club, which promptly inducted me as an honorary member and invited me to attend their bi-monthly meetings and participate in the planning of several of their upcoming events. This proved to be a fantastic opportunity as I was able to meet students and young professionals close to my age who shared a similar passion for public and community service, and was able to expand both my professional and friendship network with individuals I am still in touch with today.

Throughout much of the second semester of my studies in Uppsala, I focused primarily on conducting both qualitative and quantitative research for my final master's dissertation, compiling the results, and formulating those results into a cohesive thesis. I continued to actively participate in Rotaract activities and also attended several additional credit and non-credit courses pertaining to peacekeeping and conflict resolution as well as an additional Persian writing course.

In late spring, however, I made the decision to return to Prague so that I could be closer to my thesis supervisor and more adequately prepare for the final state exams which

each Charles University student must take at the end of their studies. While it was difficult, and indeed sad to leave Uppsala and the newfound friends that I made through Uppsala's Rotary and Rotaract clubs, I was also happy to return to Prague. Once there, I received much needed feedback regarding my thesis and made a number of revisions according to my supervisor's recommendations.

With the final version complete, the final step of my studies entailed orally defending my dissertation in front of an academic panel and sitting for what is known as the final state exam— a grueling three hour oral exam where a panel of high-ranking academics within the faculty grill prospective graduates with questions which can encompass any subject studied over the two-year program.

Although slightly rattled after an intense session of questioning, I managed to successfully defend my dissertation and pass the final state exam with the highest marks possible. With this complete, it would be only a few short months before I found myself walking out of the Great Auditorium, degree in hand, and looking back at the wonderful people I had met and the amazing places I had seen over the past year as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar.

Words cannot adequately express my profound appreciation to all the members of Rotary District 5690 for the opportunity to represent our District as an Ambassadorial Scholar this past year. Rather, going forward I hope to express my sincere gratitude in the form of an unwavering commitment to public service, and service-minded deeds espoused by Rotary's underlying philosophy. I had brief opportunities to prove this during my time working with Rotaract in Uppsala, and while volunteering at humanitarian aid stations in Prague during the Middle Eastern refugee crisis this past summer; however, it is my sincere desire to do more. I very much look forward to working closely with Rotary in the years ahead and I also look forward to meeting with you all personally at one of your weekly meetings to express my gratitude in person and share my experiences of the past year.

If you would like to get in touch to arrange a time for me to come and speak at one of your meetings, or if you just want to drop a line to say hello, I would be more than eager to hear from you through either of the following channels:

Email: hawkins.andrewjames@gmail.com

Telephone: (620) 521-5939

Linkedin: [linkedin.com/in/hawkinsandrewjames](https://www.linkedin.com/in/hawkinsandrewjames)

Thank you once again for this amazing opportunity Rotary District 5690, and I look forward to seeing you soon!

Yours faithfully,

Andrew Hawkins

More from around Uppsala and Prague...



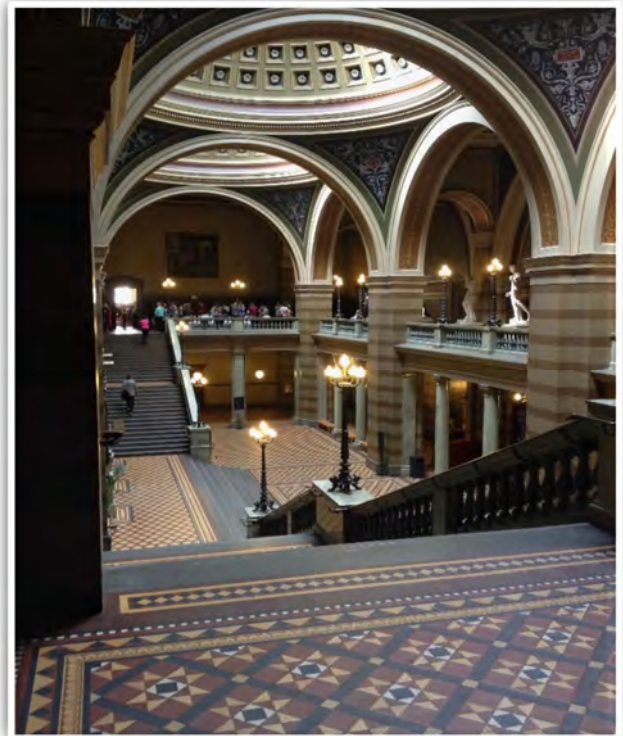
Charles University Graduation Ceremony in the Great Auditorium



Degree in hand!



PDG Staffan Björklund after presenting District 5690 to Aros Club



Entrance hall of Uppsala University



Martin Tilly, founder of Rotaract in Sweden in 2000, shares his experiences with managing complex projects at a bi-monthly Rotaract meeting.



Park-goers watch the summer sun set behind the Prague Castle from Riegrovy Hill.



Prague's stunning Charles Bridge



Standing with my baby (master's thesis) after the final state exam