

Rotary Across the Heartlands

– CONNECTING ROTARIANS ACROSS KANSAS/OKLAHOMA



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



District Spotlight

DR. GARY NORRIS. GARY HAS REACHED TWO SIGNIFICANT ROTARY FOUNDATION MILESTONES: PAUL HARRIS FELLOW +2 AND PAUL HARRIS FELLOW +4. PICTURED: GARY & JULIE NORRIS AND JENNI JONES, PRESIDENT
ROTARY CLUB OF SALINA

Living Up to Our Promise

It is no secret, membership retention can be a real challenge. You can get someone in the door, you can get them to join the club, but then after a year or two, they fade back into their own lives and drop their membership, and we missed another opportunity to change the world.

The problem comes because we offer them an opportunity, and then don't deliver on the promise. Being a Rotarian has the potential to be an incredible journey, but sometimes the opportunity is so big that members don't even know where to start. The old saying of how to eat an elephant comes to mind.

So how do we solve this problem? This is where new member orientation, a dedicated mentorship program, and just general engagement with new members plays a vital role. Get your new members involved immediately, not in leadership, but in something small but impactful. Have them help plan an upcoming social, or work on a service project team, or give a program about something they are passionate about. Need more ideas on how to engage new members? Reach out and let's figure out how to live up to our promise!

Yours in Rotary Service,
Isaac McNary

The Kilt Guy - (316)-461-0512
isaac@rotarykiltguy.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual District Conference 5680 & 5710

23-24 October, 2026

Join us for a two district combined Conference in Manhattan, KS



PELS

President Elect Learning Seminar

Double Tree Wichita
April 15-17, 2027



FALL 2026

MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE

BRING A FRIEND!

SEP. 1 – DEC 31, 2026

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

WIN BIG FOR YOUR CLUB

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



MORE INFORMATION

rotary5680.org/page/membership-challenge

Get your ASK in Gear!

When you invite a friend to Rotary, you are not inviting them to join a club, you are unlocking the door to endless opportunities. So what are you waiting for, someone to challenge you to invite your friends?

Well, this is perfect timing then, because we just launched the Fall Membership Challenge! Invite your friends, clubs keep track of the number of friends who attend, and at the end of December we declare the winner of the 1st ever “Friendliest Club Award”!

Oh, and did I mention that the club who wins the award also gets \$1,000 from the District to use towards their next project?!? You can find the full details of the challenge at <https://rotary5680.org/page/membership-challenge>

What are you waiting for, get out there and Get your ASK in gear!

DISTRICT CLUB NEWS



The **Rotary Club of Kingman** enjoyed hearing from Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach. He spoke with the Club about how Kansas is winning by reaching the lowest crime rate in 57 years, the Live Nation/Ticketmaster monopolization case, and answered questions from members.



Rotary Club of Goodland supported the Sherman County Fair by running a kiddie ride for 6 evenings (2 Aug-7 Aug, no Sunday). Like many counties in NW Kansas, we have a home owned carnival. That is, a local non-profit owns and maintains the many rides with volunteers, donations and carnival receipts. OK. It is not a big ride, but it thrills the 3-8 yr olds.





What happens when you put TWO Brendas behind a Rotary table? Double the energy, double the passion, and double the Service Above Self! Brenda Gutierrez + Brenda Stoss — affectionately known as “The Brendas” — represented the **Rotary Club of Salina** at the Not-For-Profit Parade & Showcase for Leadership Salina 2026! They shared how Rotary is making a difference right here in Salina and invited the Leadership Salina class to join us for a meeting, experience Rotary firsthand, and discover what it means to be a Person of Action.

THE ROTARY WHEEL

More than a symbol.

The Rotary wheel is an engineering masterpiece designed to work.

24 teeth were not chosen to represent 24 hours of service. That's a myth. The original intent was simply to create a strong, reliable gear that could transmit power.

*Designed not merely to turn –
but to transmit power and get work done.*

Just like Rotary.

People connected. Ideas in motion.
Service turned into action.



24 TEETH

Originally chosen for mechanical strength and reliability.



6 SPOKES

For balance, strength and durability.



KEYWAY

A small notch in the centre allows the wheel to be secured to a shaft to transmit power.



THE EVOLUTION OF A SYMBOL

1905

Montague Bear, a Rotarian from Chicago, designed the first emblem: a simple wagon wheel with lines of dust to suggest movement.



1910-1920

As Rotary grew, clubs created their own versions of the wheel with different numbers of spokes and teeth.



1923

The gear (wheel with teeth) became the official design with 24 teeth and 6 spokes. This became the foundation of the emblem we recognize today.



1929

The Rotary Convention in Dallas approved a standard description of the emblem. Today, the specification still defines 24 teeth, 6 spokes and the keyway.



ROTARY CLUB
ESTOI PALACE
INTERNATIONAL



PEOPLE OF ACTION



Rotary Club of Andover

The **Rotary Club of Clay Center** sponsored a hands-on Bookshelf Workshop for the community in August. Club members joined local families to build a bookshelf the kids could take home, along with free books to fill them!





**\$46,724.74 for
Derby, KS schools**



The **Rotary Club of Derby** and the Derby School District raised a total of \$46,724.74 to support the Community Assistance School Lunch Program. These funds were raised through a Community Garage Sale with a Purpose, Derby's city-wide garage sale registration, and Club meeting weekly speaker donations.



A huge thank you goes to the **Rotary Club of Russell** who provides all of our Prek-6th grade students with headphones! Your generosity makes a huge impact on not only learning but also taking that off the plates of our families. We appreciate all that you do for the Russell community!



Rotary Club of Guymon was honored to collect and donate items to the Oaks of Mamre Homeless Shelter. From paper towels to body wash, local Rotarians came together to help out our local shelter.



District 5680 Clubs Support Students

Thanks to the **Rotary Club of Newton** for having the “Think Before You Post – The Power of Social Media Tour” with Chet Kuplen. More than 1,400 Newton students in grades 7-12 had the opportunity to hear the message through three different assemblies throughout the day. The **Rotary Club of Newton** Golf Tournament proceeds were used to bring in this speaker for USD 373.



El Dorado Rotary Club's

THE GOLDEN PICKLE PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT!



**SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER
26TH**



\$60

PER TEAM

Each team will
receive
T-SHIRTS!



**FUN. FRIENDS. PICKLEBALL.
ALL FOR A GREAT CAUSE!**



2 DIVISIONS

Open Section
Senior Section



**STARTS AT
8:00 AM**



LOCATION

900-1036 N Main St
El Dorado, KS 67042



SPONSORSHIPS

**AVAILABLE
\$250.00**

REGISTER YOUR TEAM TODAY!

[https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/
the-golden-pickle-pickleball-tournament--2026](https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/the-golden-pickle-pickleball-tournament--2026)



El Dorado
Rotary
Club



**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING
OUR COMMUNITY!**

URBAN PREP DISTRICT GRANT PROJECT

The **Rotary Club of East Wichita** completed its 2025-26 district grant project at Urban Prep Academy. The grant, along with community partnerships, allowed the club to provide gym/sports equipment to the K-8 school and do athletic field grading. Urban Prep serves low-income students, giving them a chance to thrive and opportunities.

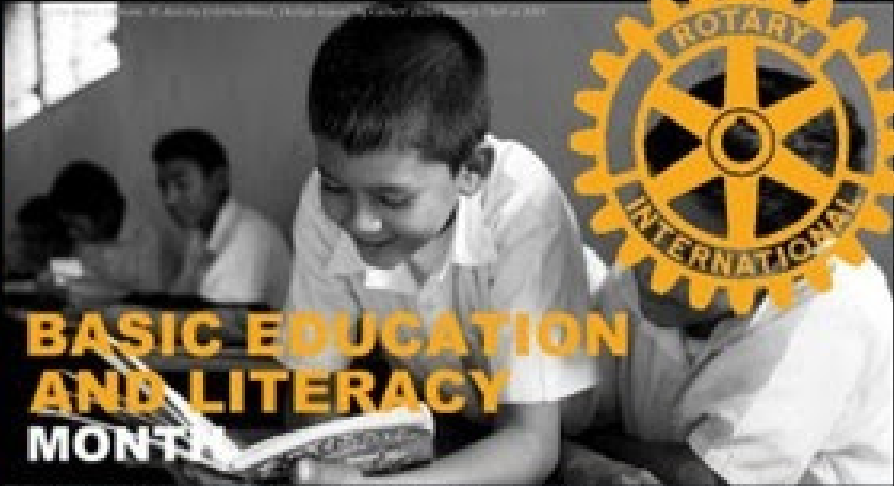


District Governor Club Visits



Rotary Club of Downtown Wichita

SEPTEMBER IS



BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY MONTH

"Education is a social process. Education is growth. Education is not a preparation for life; education is life itself."

John Dewey

Rotary 

TAKE ACTION: Join Rotary. Get Involved



Register Today!

JOINT DISTRICT CONFERENCE



 Scan Me

OCT. 23-24, 2026

MANHATTAN, KS

Register Today!

<https://qrco.de/jointdc26>

September - Service as a Membership Magnet

People Join Rotary for Many Reasons—But They Stay for Meaningful Service

Service is Rotary's heartbeat. When clubs provide impactful, hands-on service opportunities, they create experiences that inspire members and attract prospective Rotarians.

Why Service Attracts People

Today's volunteers want:

- Meaningful impact
- Visible results
- Community connection
- Opportunities to work alongside others
- A sense of purpose
- Well-designed service projects offer all of these benefits.

Making Service Visible

- Strong service projects can become membership tools when clubs:
- Invite guests to participate
- Share stories and project outcomes
- Highlight member experiences
- Showcase community impact
- Partner with local organizations
- People are often more likely to join a project first and a club second.

Membership Moment

Ask members: "What service project has been most meaningful to you, and why?"

These stories become powerful membership messages.

Action Challenge

Invite at least one prospective member to participate in your next service project and experience Rotary in action.

**In Rotary Service,
Alana McNary
District Membership Chair**

Visioning--One Key to Success

Hutchinson Rotarians gathered in October to focus on the future and bringing new ideas to their club. The Visioning process is a strategy used by clubs to look three years into the future to imagine what the club will look like; but it doesn't end there. Visioning provides tools to bring the dream into action. It asks participants to give priority to the dreams and develop goals and action steps to bring them into reality. Most importantly, it stresses the benefits of continuity and consistency year after year.



The Visioning process is eye opening, challenging, and of course fun. If your club would like to explore participating in a visioning session, contact PDG Fred Heismeyer, fredheismeyeriii@gmail.com. Serving to do Good in the World,

Fred



Rotary Youth Exchange is Back!



You will have an opportunity to meet both students at the upcoming district conference. YES, this is another reason you will want to attend. See more about the conference and find the registration link at www.rotary5680.org

If you and/or your club are interested in learning more about the RYE program, contact Lesley at lesley.hazleton@gmail.com.

Rotary Youth Exchange again!

Maria arrived in Wichita to start her experience as a Rotary Youth Exchange student. She is from Brazil and is very excited to be here for the school year. The **Rotary Club of Wichita (downtown)** is sponsoring her visit. All Rotarians will want to meet our two D5680 RYE students at the district conference in October. If your club would like to sponsor a RYE student, contact our RYE chair, Lesley Hazleton at lesley.hazleton@gmail.com.



East Wichita Rotary Scholarships



One of the long-standing projects of the **Rotary Club of East Wichita** is providing scholarships for college students. These scholarships are four-year commitments to the students. Each summer the students are invited to a club meeting at which time they give an update on their experiences. It is so great to see the development of the students through their college career.



Rotary

District 3080



Congratulations

Dr. Bharat Pandya

For being nominated at

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
PRESIDENT 2028-29**

*A proud moment
for all of us
in India*

Your leadership.
Your vision.
Your commitment.
An inspiration to millions.

India is proud.
Rotary is proud.



Wishes from Rtn Bijunarayanan.C
Rotary Club Of Chennai Sagar
RID 3234

As the Rotary Wheel keeps turning to serve the community, a new leader has been elected for **Rotary International** for the **Rotary Year 2028-29** - Dr Bharat S Pandya. Congratulations to this phenomenal leader.

District Membership Stats



DISTRICT 5680 MEMBERSHIP REPORT AS OF AUGUST 31, 2026

*Stronger Together.
Making a Difference.*

Our district remained **STRONG & STABLE** in August!

TOGETHER,
WE ARE **PEOPLE OF ACTION**
★ MAKING LIVES BETTER
IN OUR COMMUNITIES

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP
AUGUST 31, 2026
1,937

NET CHANGE
JULY 1 –
AUGUST 31, 2026
0
NO CHANGE

OUR DISTRICT
REMAINS STRONG
1,937
MEMBERS

SERVICE ABOVE SELF
Every member.
Every club.
Every day.

★ **STABLE TODAY. STRONGER TOMORROW.**
Many Bright Spots to Celebrate!

GROWTH IN ACTION!


**8 CLUBS GREW
THEIR MEMBERSHIP
IN AUGUST!**
Every new member
strengthens our ability
to **Serve, Lead
and Change Lives.**

— TOP CLUBS BY NET GAIN —

- +3 Lyons
- +2 Clay Center
- +2 West Wichita
- +1 Atwood
- +1 Garden City
- +1 Guymon
- +1 Phillipsburg
- +1 Wichita-Downtown


*Great Work,
Great Impact!*

BALANCED & RESILIENT



9 clubs experienced a decrease,
but gains in other clubs
kept our district
EXACTLY EVEN.
That's the power of working
together as one district!

BY THE NUMBERS

 JULY 1, 2026 **1,937**
 AUGUST 31, 2026 **1,937**
 NET CHANGE **0**

THE STRENGTH OF DISTRICT 5680

- ✓ Engaged Members
- ✓ Vibrant Clubs
- ✓ Meaningful Service
- ✓ Lasting Impact

— SO MUCH TO CELEBRATE! —

 **36 CLUBS
HELD STEADY**
Consistency is Key to
Long-Term Strength.

 **1,937 MEMBERS
STRONG**
A powerful network of
leaders and changemakers.

 **UNITED IN SERVICE**
Together we create
opportunities, build
connections and
transform lives.

 **THE BEST IS
YET TO COME!**
Let's keep inviting,
engaging and
growing—together!



THANK YOU
to every member and club
for all you do!
People of Action.
Service Above Self. **THAT'S 5680!**

★ Stronger Together. Making a Difference. **That's Rotary.**

People of Action.

Service Above Self.

THAT'S 5680!

Rotary
Zones 25B & 29




**WORLD'S
LARGEST
POLIO
WALK**
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026

District 5680 is participating in the World's Largest Polio Walk on Oct. 24, 2026. We encourage all of our clubs to host a Walk in their community and raise funds to help End Polio Now. Or join us at District Conference as we'll participate in the walk as part of our time together. For more information visit:
<https://rotary6440.org/events/worlds-largest-polio-walk-2026>