

Rotary Across the Heartlands

– CONNECTING ROTARIANS ACROSS KANSAS/OKLAHOMA



District Spotlight



Wayne Horlacher celebrated his 96th birthday as an active Rotarian since 1956.

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



Don't Miss This!

I will never forget my first District Conference. It was my first introduction to so many people that I am proud to call friend today. It was also my first chance to meet Rotarians in our district outside my club, to gather new ideas, and find new ways to create impact across our communities. In short, it was AWESOME!

On Oct. 23-24 we are trying something new with our District Conference. We are joining forces with our friends in 5710 and hosting a joint District Conference in Manhattan, KS and I want YOU to join us!

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

We have put together a program that is all about ***Creating Lasting Impact!*** Discussions on Rotary's role in the age of AI, practical ideas on what clubs can do to address the Mental Health needs of our communities, and thoughtful breakout sessions designed to ignite impact in our district, PLUS we are going to have FUN!

I look forward to seeing you all in Manhattan in just a few short weeks. Register today, you won't be sorry!

Isaac McNary
District Governor





2026 District Conference

Innovation • Collaboration • Transformation

Friday - Oct 23

- 05:00 PM Registration Opens - DoubleTree by Hilton
05:30 PM Social Hour - Cash Bar Opens, Heavy Appetizers
07:00 PM John McElligott - The Four-Way Test in the Age of AI

Saturday - Oct. 24

- 07:00 am Registration Opens
08:00 am Worlds Largest Polio Walk
09:15 am Networking Break
09:45 am Breakout Sessions
Service Projects, AI Continued, Club Visioning
11:00 am Breakout Sessions
Modernizing Membership, IT Support, Mental Health
12:00 pm Lunch - Dr. Jessica Provines - Suspenders 4 Hope
01:45 pm Breakout Sessions
Int. Service Projects, Multi Club Projects, Youth Programs
02:50 pm Breakout Sessions
Rotary Resources, Public Image, Re-Energizing the Club
04:00 pm District Breakout Sessions
06:00 pm Cocktail Hour - Halloween Costume Contest
Bring your best Costume and have a great time!
07:00 pm Dinner - The Rotary Foundation Auction



Michelle Sink
5710



Isaac McNary
5680

"My first District Conference was transformative. Joining a club made me a member. Attending my first District Conference opened my eyes to our global impact—and made me a true Rotarian."



DoubleTree

530 Richards Dr.
Manhattan, KS 66502

Register Now At:

qrco.de/jointdc26



Can't Stop WON'T STOP!

The reports are rolling in! New people all across our district are getting introduced to Rotary because YOU are getting your ASK in gear! Don't stop now, every friend you invite during the friendship challenge doesn't just bring a new prospect to the table, it puts your club in position to increase your impact by winning the Friendliest Club award! **Don't stop now!** The Membership Challenge keeps on rolling through Dec. 31!

If you missed the email, you can still report your numbers for September!

REPORT NOW!

SEPTEMBER
Rankings

1ST
2ND
3RD

Wichita - Old Town

Colby

Lyons

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

DISTRICT CLUB NEWS



During the busy Homecoming week, the **Rotary Club pf Kingman** delivered snacks to Kingman Middle-High School staff as a small thank-you for all they do.



The **Rotary Club of Pratt** welcomed high school students of the month, Kylar Barker and Zoe Hopkins, from Pratt High School.

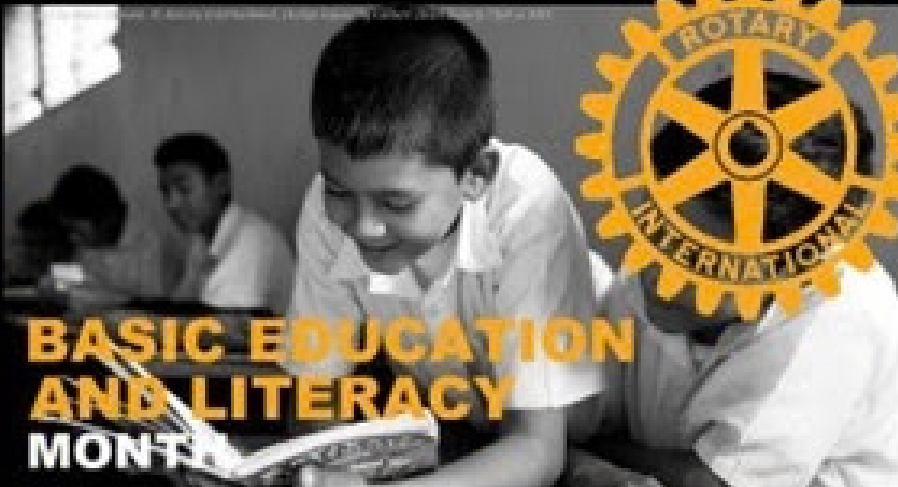




Fantastic meeting at [Rotary Club of Old Town Wichita](#) with our RYLA Leadership Camp student, Angel Hernandez. He joined us to tell us about his experiences and that the ropes course was fire.



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

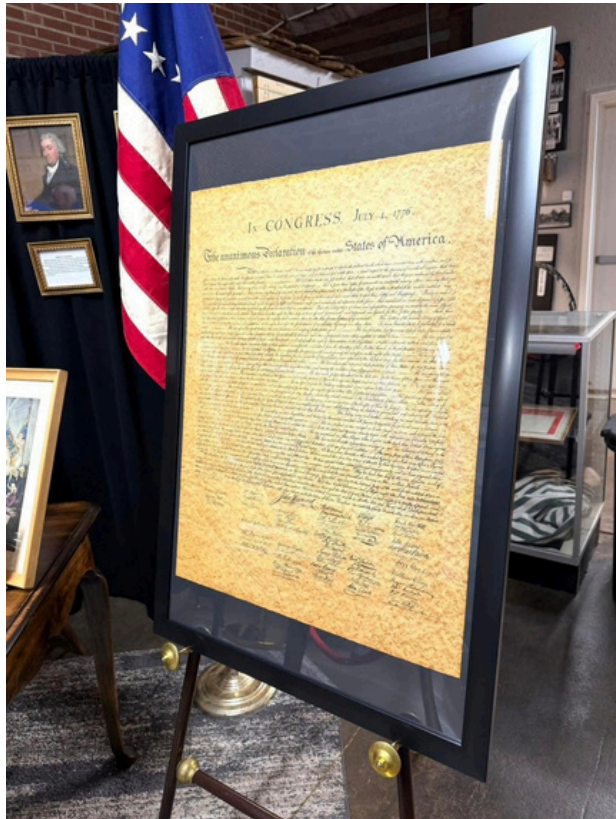
The Rotary Club of West Wichita **SATELLITE CLUB SHOWS** **SERVICE IN ACTION**

LAPS FOR LOVE: Julie Butler and Becky Endicott volunteered over Labor Day weekend for Laps for Love Backyard Ultra at the Sedgwick County Park. The event raised over \$20,000 for Family Promise of Greater Wichita, an organization supporting families with children experiencing homelessness right here in our community



DRESS FOR SUCCESS: Satellite Rotarians cleaned out their closets and donated clothing items to Dress for Success, an organization whose mission is to empower women to achieve economic mobility by providing a global network of support, workplace attire, and development tools for success.

Rotary Club of Guymon's booth hosted ceramic painting & good vibes at Guymon Fiesta.



The **Rotary Club of Pratt** lunch at The Howard Center before walking to the Pratt County Historical Museum to view the traveling Declaration of Independence exhibit.





Rotarians from the Wichita area joined together for a theater experience and fellowship. On September 11, over 30 Rotarians saw the play "Come from Away". This is a story of how the citizens of Gander, Newfoundland, Canada took in some 7,000 stranded travelers due to the bombing of the World Trade Center, Pentagon, and the plane crashing in Pennsylvania, thus closing of air space in the US. It was an evening of mixed emotions, from laughter to tears. The emotions were heightened by the 25th anniversary of the horrific acts of that day. Thanks to Roxy's Downtown for giving us a memorable evening.



Fred & Joyce Heismeyer attended RI Conference that took place in Tai Pei, their 5th in person.



JOINT ZONE INSTITUTE

CANCUN, MEXICO

2026

“When I started volunteering at the district level a few years ago, I never dreamed of where it would take me. I just wanted to do more, to have a greater impact, but it has given me so much more than that. I have made so many friends, found mentors that I trust to give me good advice and steer me in the right direction, and I have been able to see the wider world in a new and exciting way. This year I was lucky enough to be sent to Cancun for training. The location, while beautiful, had nothing on the experience. It was educational, inspirational, and helped to re-energize me after a busy first quarter as DG. Next year we will be going to Omaha, and it will be every bit as magical as Cancun. I hope that we have some fresh faces from our District join us as we learn how to do Rotary bigger and better. Will it be you?!?”

DG Isaac McNary

District 5680 was well represented at our recent joint Zone Institute. Nine Rotarians joined over 900 other Rotarians from five Zones in Cancun, Mexico for this premier leadership learning opportunity. Our DG line, DG Isaac McNary, DGE Amy Lash Esau, and DGN Ed Frey, had meetings to help them dream, plan, and lead our district. PDG Andrea Krauss was one of the Institute coordinators and spent the past year planning the event. PDN Ed Frey was on a panel regarding the unique types of clubs that exist and discussing the Pickleball Satellite Club. PDG Fred Heismeyer, began his training as he prepares to become the Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator as of July 1 and served on the Zone planning committee. Finally, PDG Gloria Homeier served as a go-to-person for registration and Institute questions. Also attending and learning were Kori Grigg (Foundation Chair), Joyce Heismeyer (District Executive Secretary), and Alana McNary (Membership Chair).

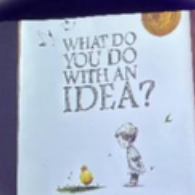
NINE DISTRICT 5680 ROTARIANS ATTEND THE ZONE INSTITUTE



It's all about YOU!



Mike McGovern
Polio Plus Chair





“Zone is a great place for connections. First, it was great seeing and going through training again with my fellow District Governors-elect for the second year to prepare for serving as Governor next year. Second, there are so many opportunities to meet and get to know people outside of our District who have great ideas to share for club and district growth, vibrancy, projects, etc. This year, there were even more people to interact with because of having 5 zones together, from Canada to Central America. I was proud of our own Andrea Krauss, who was a key person in putting on this event. It's a great experience!”

DGE Amy Lash Esau



“Attending the Zone Institute opened my eyes to the incredible impact of leadership in Rotary. I was honored to meet and learn from inspiring Rotary leaders who will be valuable mentors and resources as I prepare to serve as Rotary District 5680 Governor in 2028–2029.

Most of all, I'm grateful for the conversations, shared experiences, laughter, and friendships—both old and new. I left inspired, grateful, and even more excited for the journey ahead in Rotary.”

DGN Ed Frey



“It was a pleasure to meet our RI President Yinka Babalola, a gentle, intelligent, and personable leader. The added bonus was having RIPE, Larry Lunsford in attendance. I look forward to his leadership next year.”

District Executive Secretary, Joyce Heismeyer



NEXT YEAR'S ZONE INSTITUTE WILL BE IN OMAHA, NE, SEPTEMBER 8-11, 2027

Pratt Community Comes Together to Learn About Digital Safety and Mindfulness

PRATT, Kan. — September 9, 2026 — Digital safety, responsible technology use, and mindfulness took center stage in Pratt on September 9 as students and community members had the opportunity to learn from nationally recognized digital safety expert Richard Guerry.

Guerry presented to area High School students during the day, providing students with practical information about digital citizenship, cyber safety, online communication, social media, gaming, artificial intelligence, deepfakes, technology wearables, and the importance of empathy and accountability in the digital world.

The community was invited to continue the conversation that evening during a free public presentation at the Pratt Municipal Building, where Guerry addressed parents, educators, and community members on “Keeping You Safe Online: What Every Person Should Know.” The presentation focused on recognizing and preventing cyber cruelty, making safe choices in online gaming and communication, avoiding oversharing and irresponsible social media behaviors, and understanding emerging risks associated with AI, deepfakes, apps, and other evolving technologies.

As technology continues to rapidly change, the program emphasized that digital safety is not simply a concern for young people—it is an issue that affects individuals, families, schools, businesses, and the entire community. Participants gained practical knowledge and strategies for promoting responsible, respectful, and mindful use of digital tools while recognizing potentially harmful online behaviors.

The September 9 program was made possible through the collaboration and support of the Pratt Rotary Club, Stanion Wholesale, The People’s Heartland Foundation/People’s Bank Trust Department, and the Pratt Public Library. Their partnership brought an important national conversation about digital safety and mindfulness directly to Pratt students, families, and community members.

The event reinforced a shared community message: As technology evolves, so must our knowledge, awareness, empathy, and responsibility in using it.





Help us reconnect with RYLA Alumni!

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

We need your story!

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

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

Register Today!

JOINT DISTRICT CONFERENCE



OCT. 23-24, 2026

MANHATTAN, KS

Register Today!

<https://qrco.de/jointdc26>

Bring Toothpaste to District Conference



Two years ago the District clubs provided the **Rotary Club of Russell** with dental supplies (toothpaste, tooth brushes, and dental floss) to be used in our Heart of America and Russell Rotary Club's dental mission for children in Bukidnon, Philippines. Last year we needed children's vitamins for another project and the District clubs again rose to the occasion by providing several hundred bottles of much needed children's and pre-natal vitamins. We still have tooth brushes, dental floss, and vitamins on hand. We do, however, have a critical shortages of toothpaste! I am requesting that the clubs again do a mini international service project and bring toothpaste to the District Conference.



Leadership Development & Growth

Opportunities for Growth

Membership is more than attending meetings—it's an opportunity for personal and professional growth. Many members discover leadership abilities through Rotary that benefit them throughout their lives and careers.

Rotary as a Leadership Laboratory

Rotary provides opportunities to:

- Lead projects
- Chair committees
- Organize events
- Build public speaking skills
- Develop strategic thinking
- Expand professional networks
- Mentor and be mentored



Growing Leaders at Every Level

Leadership isn't limited to presidents and board members. Every member has talents and experiences that can contribute to club success.

Clubs create stronger engagement when they:

- Encourage participation early
- Match opportunities with interests
 - Provide mentorship
- Celebrate leadership achievements
- Develop future leaders intentionally

Membership Moment

Reflect: "How has Rotary helped you grow personally or professionally?"

Action Challenge

Identify a member with untapped leadership potential and invite them to take on a meaningful role within the club.

Thank you!

Alana McNary, PHR, SHRM-CP, FPC
District 5680 Membership Chair

District Membership Stats



Rotary District 5680 Membership Trends

Strong Clubs Engaged Communities A Brighter Future

District 5680
covers two thirds
of Kansas and
some clubs
in Oklahoma.



DISTRICT 5680 AT A GLANCE



Total Members

July 1, 2026

1,937



Total Members

Sept. 30, 2026

1,935



Net Change

(2026-2027)

-8 members



*Kudos to
Our Gaining Clubs!*

A big thank you to these clubs
for growing their membership
this year:

- ★ Wichita-Downtown +4
- ★ West Wichita +3
- ★ Clay Center +2
- ★ Guymon +2
- ★ Lyons +3
- ★ Hays +1
- ★ Phillipsburg +1
- ★ Hays Sunrise +1
- ★ Garden City +1
- ★ Atwood +1

*More members.
Greater impact!*



District 5680 Membership Report

As of September 30, 2026

Club	7/1/2026 Membership	9/30/2026 Membership	2026-2027 Net Gain
Abilene	48	48	0
Andover	20	16	(4)
Arkansas City	62	61	(1)
Atwood	24	25	1
Beaver	16	16	0
Beloit	26	26	0
Boise City	23	22	(1)
Cimarron	16	16	0
Clay Center	61	63	2
Colby	36	36	0
Concordia	19	19	0
Derby	54	54	0
Dodge City	28	28	0
East Wichita	59	58	(1)
E-Club	17	17	0
El Dorado	28	27	(1)
Ellinwood	13	13	0
Ellis	9	9	0
Fort Hays State U – Rotaract	19	19	0
Garden City	19	20	1
Goodland	14	14	0
Great Bend	25	25	0
Guymon	28	30	2
Haskell County (Sublette)	18	18	0
Hays	49	50	1
Hays Sunrise	8	9	1
Hill City	9	9	0
Howard	10	10	0
Hugoton	11	11	0
Hutchinson	84	80	(4)
Kingman	19	19	0
Kinsley	3	3	0
Liberal	34	34	0
Lyons	17	20	3
McPherson	25	21	(4)
Ness City	20	17	(3)
Newton	55	55	0
Norton	8	8	0
Oberlin	29	29	0

Club	7/1/2026 Membership	9/30/2026 Membership	2026-2027 Net Gain
Osborne	8	8	0
Phillipsburg	36	37	1
Pratt	60	60	0
Russell	32	32	0
Salina	86	86	0
Sterling	12	12	0
Syracuse	18	17	(1)
Texhoma	9	9	0
Ulysses	18	18	0
Washington	29	29	0
West Sedgwick Co Sunrise	38	38	0
West Wichita	73	76	3
Wichita-Downtown	388	392	4
Wichita-Old Town	8	8	0
Winfield	59	58	(1)

District Total

July 1, 2026
Membership

1,937

Sept. 30, 2026
Membership

1,935

Net Gain
(2026-2027)

-8



Every Member Matters!

While we had a net loss of 8 members
this Rotary year, we celebrate the
clubs that grew, the continued
commitment of our members,
and the positive impact we make
in our communities.

*Together, we can
build an even stronger
District 5680!*



**More Members.
More Leaders.
More Impact.**

Rotary District 5680

Kansas | Oklahoma | Service Above Self

*Grow Membership.
Expand Our Impact.*



Let's Advocate, Donate & Educate to END POLIO NOW & FOREVER!



TOTAL WILD POLIO CASES

Globally	Endemic Countries	Year-to-Date 2026	2025 Total	2024 Total	2023 Total	2022 Total
29	22	29	52	99	12	30



TOTAL POLIO CASES (Wild + Variant)

2026 YTD:	182	(29 + 153)
2025:	285	(52 + 233)
2024:	565	(99 + 466)
2023:	536	(12 + 524)
2022:	944	(30 + 914)



CIRCULATING VARIANT POLIO CASES

2026	Total: 153	2025	Total: 233	2024	Total: 466
Angola	1	Algeria	1	Algeria	1
Central African Republic	4	Angola	19	Angola	9
Chad	8	Benin	3	Benin	2
DRC	50	Burkina Faso	1	Cameroon	3
Ethiopia	9	Cameroon	1	Chad	39
LAO PDR	3	Central African Republic	2	Cote d'Ivoire	1
Madagascar	2	Chad	35	DR Congo	25
Malawi	2	Djibouti	1	Ethiopia	44
Mali	3	DRC	8	Guinea	9
Niger	1	Ethiopia	41	Indonesia	8
Nigeria	47	Guinea	2	Liberia	1
Somalia	6	Lao PDR	1	Mali	1
South Sudan	13	Mali	1	Mozambique	1
Sudan	4	Niger	3	Niger	17
Togo	2	Nigeria	72	Nigeria	101
		Papua New Guinea	5	Occupied Palestinian Terr.	1
		Somalia	2	Senegal	1
		Sudan	7	Somalia	7
		Yemen	30	South Sudan	11
				Yemen	167



NEW POLIO CASES & SAMPLES REPORTED THIS WEEK

- **Afghanistan:** two WPV1 cases
- **Pakistan:** one WPV1 case and one WPV1-positive environmental sample
- **DR Congo:** two cVDPV2 cases
- **Mali:** one cVDPV2 case
- **Nigeria:** one cVDPV2 case
- **Somalia:** two cVDPV2-positive environmental samples



Quote of the Day

"An individual has a healthy personality to the exact degree to which they have the propensity to look for the good in every situation."

— Ralph Waldo Emerson
(1803 - 1882)

THE FINAL TWO POLIO ENDEMIC COUNTRIES



PAKISTAN

- 1 new Wild Polio case reported this week.
- 4 cases in 2026 | 31 in 2025 | 74 in 2024
- 6 in 2023
- Most recent case: onset 8/7/26
- No new WPV1 environmental samples and no cVDPV2-positive environmental samples reported this week.



AFGHANISTAN

- 2 new Wild Polio cases reported this week.
- 25 in 2026 | 21 in 2025 | 25 in 2024
- 6 in 2023
- Most recent case: onset 8/06/26
- 1 new WPV1 environmental sample and no cVDPV2-positive environmental samples reported this week.



Polio endemic countries
(Pakistan & Afghanistan)



Over
3 BILLION
Children Immunized



Over
\$3 BILLION
raised by Rotary for
Polio Eradication



21,000,000
Children Saved from
the Paralysis of Polio



1.6 MILLION
lives saved thanks to
the Polio Vaccines

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>