

Rotarians in Action



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

Rotary District 5630

2021-22 · Edition 3 · March 2022

A Wintry Spring Hello from DG Bob!

Finally, we got some moisture in western Nebraska, and though it is already shrinking and melting, the good it has brought is amazing! Nebraskans know that moisture means grass growth, pasture preservation, and most of all, attitude improvement. Agriculture people are helpless without proper moisture levels but optimistic when we have some rain-snow!

The same holds true for Rotarians. Building our membership starts at the club level, and new members are just like added moisture. They are good for Rotary and by extension good for each of us. We have been suffering the drought of declining membership, and it's time for some welcome improvement there.

As of last Friday, Rotary International says we have 1002 members and only 29 clubs. Just a few years ago, we had more than 1400 members and 36 clubs.

I saw some very encouraging signs from the large delegation we sponsored at the 2022 PETS gathering. Forty Rotarians and supporters from 5630 made it to

Westminster, Colorado. They spent three days associating with other winners and gathered ideas from around the region as well as internationally. Our district also led several sessions in a very professional manner. In a word, I thought I saw some moisture there!

You may recall that whenever we get together, I have encouraged you to **"Help someone out, have fun doing it, and tell everyone about it."** Once again, the most active clubs in District 5630 are doing just that! And they are showing the most ability to retain and add members.

I urge you to focus some effort right now in your town, in your club, and in your area to find a quality person who has a Rotary heart and an interest in joining us to help others. There is a lot at stake for us.

-Bob

DG Bob Mayber 2021-22

North Platte Rotary Club
dg.2021@5630mail.org



2022 District 5630 Governor's Conference

April 29 - May 1, 2022

Best Western Plus, North Platte



Friday p.m.: Taste of Nebraska, Golden Spike
Saturday Noon: Professional Magician
Evening: Van Deeb: Caring for Others

[Click here for Registration Form](#)
DEADLINE: April 1

Mail to address on form
or e-mail to dg.2021@5630mail.org.

Registration Fee: \$25 per person paid by cash or check at registration. Includes all meals.

Phone hotel at 308-534-3120, Ext. 3. Ask for Rotary Conference rate (\$92 plus taxes)

You can't afford to stay home!

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

A Global Network of Community Volunteers
One Rotary Center
1560 Sherman Avenue
Evanston, IL 60201



Rotary International President 2021-22

Shekhar Mehta

Member of Calcutta-Mahanagar Rotary Club
West Bengal, India

District 5630 Central and Western Nebraska

www.rotary5630.org

DISTRICT LEADERS

District Governor 2021-22

Bob Mayber dg.2021@5630mail.org

District Governor Elect 2022-23

Deb McCaslin dmccaslinx4@gmail.com

District Governor Nominee 2023-24

Glenn Knuth dg.2023@5630mail.org

District Public Image Chair

Lore Beckius loreb@wolfauto.com

District Membership Co-Chairs

Deb McCaslin dmccaslinx4@gmail.com
Jerry Milner jerrymilner@hotmail.com

District Foundation & Grants Chair

Dale Schultz dg.2018@5630mail.org

District Grants Subcommittee Chair

Emma Reichenberg emmapetersen@gmail.com

District Treasurer

Brooke Robertson brooke.robertson@ampf.com

PolioPlus Chair

Dr. Delane Wycoff delanew@charter.net

RAGAS (Rotary Action Group against Slavery)

Angela Swanson angieswanson@hotmail.com

RYLA Co-Chairs

Monty Vonasek monty@centralvalleyinc.com
Cynthia Houlden houldencm@gmail.com

Youth Exchange Chair

Paula Witt wittinc@icloud.com

District Executive Secretary/Newsletter Editor

Cheryl Bryan daa@5630mail.org

Imagine



Just imagine the possibilities
– imagine the impact –
– imagine the good.

**IMAGINE
ROTARY**

I absolutely love the theme for our upcoming Rotary year. In the hands of incoming Rotary International President *Jennifer Jones*, our organization is destined to try new things... destined to expand the good this 117-year-old organization has laid as its foundation.

Going into PETS earlier this month. I took a good look at Rotary's vision statement – **“Together we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change across the globe in our communities and in ourselves.”**

The statement continues, **“As we stand on the cusp of eliminating polio, we find ourselves poised for our next challenge. The time is right to move toward realizing a new vision that brings more people together, increases our impact and creates lasting change around the world.”**

When I think about the word **IMAGINE**, I see great things ahead.

Imagine what we could do if we ...

- **Increased Our Impact** by eradicating polio and then leveraged the legacy; and through this focused our programs and offerings while improving our ability to achieve and measure the impact.
- **Expanded Our Reach** by growing and diversifying our membership and participation. What if we created new channels into Rotary through increasing our openness and appeal. Building awareness of our impact and brand is important in this step.
- **Enhanced Participant Engagement** by supporting clubs to better engage their members. RIPE Jones suggests the need to “adapt and retool.” It would be awesome to figure out how to develop a participant-centered approach where our members and our communities feel Rotary's value. One way might be to expand on opportunities for personal and professional connection and to provide leadership development and skills training.

(Cont'd on page 21)



Thanks to PDG Scott McLaughlin (2019-20) for sharing a recent letter by Dr. Karl Borden, a co-founder of the Kearney Dawn Rotary Club and Past District 5630 Governor (1998-99).

Following is an article he and his wife Sandra wrote in 2014 "when Russia last attacked Ukraine and stole part of their country.... It will tell you something about the extraordinary spirit of these people who are now fighting for their nation, their freedom, indeed their lives.

I have no doubt that 'Vlad' is now one of the thousands fighting in the streets. We also spent time in Estonia and have friends there as well. They at least are behind the protective shield of NATO. We think of them and pray for their safety.

"We must never forget how blessed we are to live when, and where, we do in this great nation."

Dr. Karl Borden

Professor of Finance
University of Nebraska/Kearney



"I will never go back!"

A glimpse into why the Ukrainians did what they did.

By PDG Karl and Sandra Borden. February 17, 2014

Written for the Foundation for Economic Education (FEE.com)

In 1999 we attended the Rotary International conference in Singapore and sat on a bus next to a fellow Rotarian, a physician from Ukraine. Rotary had only established its first Ukrainian club a few years earlier, and my seat neighbor introduced himself to us. A conversation and friendship ensued, and "Oleg" invited us to visit him in Ukraine if the opportunity arose. It did—later that year we had the extraordinary experience of spending two weeks in Ukraine just as the country was, it seemed, beginning a journey toward democracy and free markets.

Because Sandra practices medicine, and through my contacts with Rotary International, we had the opportunity to meet many Ukrainian medical professionals. We will never forget one evening in particular. Our hosts for the evening were an oncologist and his wife, a music teacher, and we were guests in their home—a small two-bedroom apartment where they lived with their son. The oncologist's hospital, which we had toured earlier that day, was a converted horse barn; his office was a former stall. His colleague and other dinner guest was a cardiologist who had spent a few months in the 1980s in the United States on a medical exchange program—by chance at the same hospital where Sandra had been born 40 years earlier. Both were in their early 50s and had grown up in the Soviet system. To protect them now I will call them "Sergei" and "Vlad," respectively.

Sergei, the oncologist, told us he had to lock his meager medical supplies and equipment in his office each night or they would disappear by morning. He also explained that "free medicine for everyone" meant in practice that

actual medical supplies and services were so scarce as to be virtually nonexistent without a bribe or access to the black market. But it was Vlad's stories that held a special poignancy and that we especially remember now.

Vlad told us what it was like growing up in fear of the secret police. He recounted how every day as a child he would come home from school and his mother would ask him, "What did they tell you today?" and then sort it out for him: "That is true. You may believe it. But that other is a lie—say nothing to your teacher, but you should not believe it." He explained how the children's job was to wait in line, sometimes for days, no matter what product was at the end. Anything that was available had potential barter value. Vlad told us how in one generation his country's culture had devolved. His grandfather, he said, was an upright and honest man who had his farm taken from him by the State. His father would steal anything to survive and would sneak into the same fields his grandfather had once owned to purloin vegetables.

He darkly joked about the local building that was the KGB's headquarters. It is, he said, the tallest building in the city: Occupants could "see Siberia from the basement." He recounted his first experience in a U.S. grocery store, when his "KGB keeper" allowed him to go there to purchase toothpaste: "I stood in the aisle looking at every imaginable variety of toothpaste. An explosion of colors, sizes, and flavors. And I was paralyzed. I could not decide. I saw Americans walk to the display and easily make their choices—but I could not. I realized in that moment that I had never really made a choice in my life. The State had assigned me to my school, my

(Cont'd on page 21)



Rotex Help Prepare Outgoing Exchange Students

Members of the world-wide Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) network are excited to return to live exchanges and international travel, language learning and cultural experiences.

In late February exchangers and their parents, Rotex (Rotary Youth Exchange alumni), and Rotarians met at Nebraska Youth Camp near Kearney for Outbound Orientation 2022-2023. Exchangers *Rudi Anderson* (Ogallala to Brazil), *Jordan Mireles* (Grant to Germany) and *Shree Dyches-Chandler* (Gothenburg to Spain) were immersed in RYE culture and saturated with information in preparation for their exchanges this summer.

Rotex from D5630 were the speakers/presenters for the entire weekend. Kudos to *Sophie Cass* (Hastings to Peru 2018-19), *Chandice Rogers* (Hastings to Reunion Island 2016-17), *Chloe Branham-Beck* (Minden to Spain 2017-18), *Madeline Jorgenson* (Gothenburg to Sweden 2020-21) and *Federico Bonadonna* (Italy to Hastings 2017-18).

Focus on Fede

After his FYE year, *Federico Bonadonna* completed his education in Italy and is now enrolled in Vermont School of Law.



He sought this opportunity to speak. *"I chose to participate at the Rotary Youth Exchange Outbound Orientation because I wanted to give back to the community that raised me up. The RYE has unlocked countless doors in my life, pushing me to become the best version of myself. It only made sense to come back to engage with new kids and families to show them that this life is possible – and it does not have to be expensive.*

"Having a weekend to encourage the future exchange students is an opportunity that should never be wasted, and Rotexes get a chance to lift others in their journey through the youth exchange. This weekend has been a seed of hope that I will cherish forever. The RYE Outbound Orientation is the ideal platform to network, reconnect and share."

Another exciting news report is that *Juan Zanguito* (Argentina to North Platte 2019-2020) is planning his return to Nebraska to complete his college education in Central Nebraska, studying Computer/Software Engineering.

Six Rotary Clubs in D5630 are readying themselves for hosting inbound students this fall. Hastings Sunrise, North Platte Sunrise, Grant, Gothenburg, Ogallala, and

Minden will host students from Germany (2), Brazil (2), Poland, and Spain. Clubs will be making their selection of students to host in the near future. They will arrive in August. Stay tuned!

Paula Witt

Youth Exchange Chair
Hastings Sunrise Rotary Club
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Rotary
Alumni Association



Rotex
North America

The Future of Rotary: Rotex

The Rotex of District 5630 are very excited to announce that our district has joined [SCRYE](#) (South Central Rotary Youth Exchange) Alumni Association! This is a part of the North American Rotex Association, chartered in 2020.

Over the years, District 5630 has sent many students from western-central Nebraska abroad as Cultural Ambassadors through the Rotary Youth Exchange Program. These former exchange students are primarily college students or young professionals who are spread across the state and nation.

The Rotex of District 5630 regularly credit Rotary Youth Exchange as a formative life experience and one which has aided their success in countless other ways throughout college and the beginning of their careers. Many of them are interested in staying connected with RYE and Rotary and being able to give back to the communities that provided them with this life-changing opportunity.

The Rotex observed the quality of the orientations, camps, and rebound support provided by Rotary and have noted how the Rotary Youth Exchange program exceeds other exchange programs. Therefore, Rotex are committed to the growth and continuation of RYE and are willing to dedicate their time, energy, creativity, and service to these efforts.

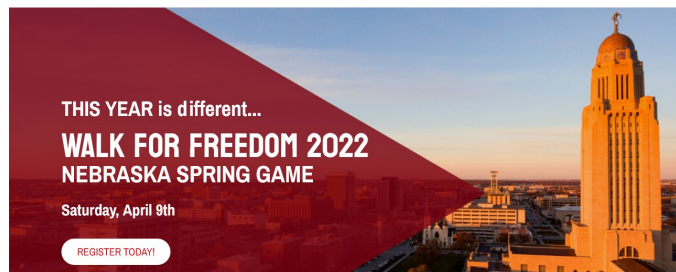
The Rotex of District 5630 will assume leadership roles within the RYE program, with the eventual goal of moving into larger leadership roles within Rotary. Your support and enthusiasm will be greatly beneficial as the Rotex continue to develop and assume new

(Cont'd next page)

leadership roles to keep the program vibrant and impactful for future exchange students.

As these efforts persist, former exchange students sponsored by your clubs may be approaching you to ask if you would be willing to sponsor their alumnae membership fees of \$30 per year. Your willingness to sponsor Rotex' participation in the SCRYE Alumni Association will make a difference in Rotary leadership for years to come!

Syble Heffernan and Chloe Branham-Beck
Rotex of District 5630



The application portal is now open for Great Plains RYLA 2022 to be held July 12-17, 2022, at the Nebraska State 4-H campground near Halsey, Nebraska.

RYLA is just one of the popular youth programs sponsored by Rotary along with Rotary Youth Exchange, Rotaract, and Interact.

Great Plains RYLA is a co-ed leadership camp designed to develop leadership skills through problem solving, communication, and team building while learning about the value of service, the importance of community, and the role of Rotary locally and internationally. Participants will also develop self-confidence and a network of friends. RYLA students participate in team building trust activities, participate in hand-on leadership development activities, hear from first-class speakers from throughout the state, and engage in fun activities. Great Plains RYLA is available to all eligible youth regardless of their current leadership ability or grades in school.

Funding for the awards is provided by local Rotary Clubs which fund each student's attendance at RYLA camp. Rotarians also serve as counselors for the annual camp.

To apply, visit GreatPlainsRYLA.org. **Applications must be completed on or before March 31.** For questions or additional information, please call or send me an email.



Cindy Houlden
RYLA Co-Chair
Kearney Dawn Rotary Club
houldencm@gmail.com
308-293-6417

Hello my fellow Rotarians!

I am inviting all of you to invite you to participate in **Walk for Freedom** April 9th at the Huskers Spring game, hosted by a non-profit organization based out of Lincoln called I've Got a Name.

In previous years the organization has hosted a walk around Lincoln to raise awareness about human trafficking. This year will be more of a tailgating style. We would wear our shirts that are included in the registration fee and engage with the public near the stadium while handing out wallet cards and information about human trafficking in Nebraska.

The most recent focus for Executive Director Paul Yates is the Men's Movement, which aims to stop the demand of human trafficking by speaking with men, as they are the majority of the purchasers of human trafficking victims.

Please let me know if you would be interested in joining a team for the Walk for Freedom. I was unable to attend last year, but still registered my family each individually. We received a t-shirt and considered it a donation to a great organization and cause so if you would like to register individually you can sure do that as well.

I hope you all will consider at least making a donation to Paul and his amazing crew.

[Register Here](#)

Angie Swanson
District Chair, [RAGAS](#)
(Rotary Action Group Against Slavery)
McCook Rotary Club
AngieSwanson@hotmail.com
308-352-6016



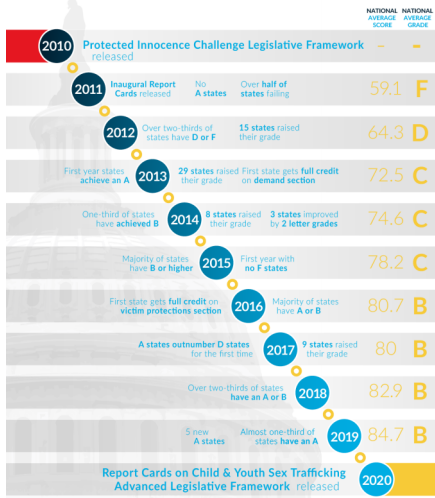
Nebraska's Fight Against Human Trafficking: How Are We Doing?

In 2010, in a project called "Protected Innocence Challenge," the non-profit organization, [Shared Hope](#), challenged states to enact laws that address the crime of child sex trafficking.

Each year Shared Hope issues a "State Report Card" for their efforts in eradicating this horrendous crime. States are graded according to 6 Issue Areas and 40 Components of Law.

REPORT CARDS TIMELINE 2010-2020

A look at the last ten years



At first, many states received an F due to their absence of any laws regarding this crime at all, but by 2019, almost a third of American states received an A.

Nebraska Scored an F in the 2021 Shared Hope International Report Cards

Issue	Grade	Score
1. Criminal Provisions	F	9.5 / 17.5
2. Identification of and Response to Victims	F	15 / 27.5
3. Continuum of Care	F	6 / 15
4. Access to Justice for Trafficking Survivors	D	9 / 15
5. Tools for a Victim-Centered Criminal Justice Response	F	3 / 10
6. Prevention and Training	F	0 / 15
EXTRA CREDIT		
18+ Youth		1
CLT Child Labor Trafficking		4
OVERALL GRADE TIER II		F 47.5

Despite our best efforts, however, the 2021 Report Card for Nebraska shows us falling behind again.



And we are not alone. The image to the left is the breakdown of the number of states per grade they received for 2021.

NEBRASKA REPORT CARD | 2019

Final Score	91					
Final Grade	10	24	12	7.5	23	14.5
	10	25	15	10	27.5	15
	A					

Nebraska's score rose from an F in 2011 to an [A in 2019](#) because of changes in the Department of Health and Human Services'

protocol regarding juvenile sex trafficking victims and state laws that authorize wiretaps for human trafficking investigations.

As you can see we have a lot of work to do in not only Nebraska, but across our country. Now, more than ever, we need to work together to put an end to human trafficking. **This is where we come in Rotarians.** We have our work cut out for us, but I have faith that we have what it takes to take on the fastest growing crime in the world: human trafficking.

To learn more about the Shared Hope Report Card – and also efforts to protect victims from being prosecuted for the very crime committed against them, watch this short two-minute video, [2021 State Report Card](#) from Shared Hope International, produced in December 2021.

Angie Swanson

District Chair, [RAGAS](#)
(Rotary Action Group Against Slavery)
McCook Rotary Club
AngieSwanson@hotmail.com
308-352-6016



Public Image: Strategies for Promoting Your Club

When your Rotary club has a positive public image, current members will be motivated and active, and prospective members will be eager to join. Here are some ways you can enhance your club's image:

Media Relations

- **Cultivate relationships** with local journalists. Find out:
 - ◆ What types of stories they prefer
 - ◆ How they want to be contacted
 - ◆ The amount of lead time they need
 - ◆ The information they would like to receive (e.g., news releases, background materials, photos, videos, interviews) regarding your club's projects.
- **Address a Community Issue.** Send individual emails to journalists that include:
 - ◆ Data that demonstrate the matter's significance and the positive impact of your project
 - ◆ Personal stories that underscore the impact of your work, such as a beneficiary or club member with a close connection to the issue
 - ◆ Interview opportunities with project leaders, partners, or beneficiaries
 - ◆ Compelling visuals to help tell your story, such as club members actively engaging with community residents or doing hands-on volunteer work**TIPS:** 1) Include a concise explanation of the story in the subject line; 2) Paste news releases into the body of your email rather than as an attachment.

Marketing

- **Look for opportunities** to place "People of Action" ads in your local newspaper and on its website. Air an ad on your community's radio station. Ask media outlets if they offer no-cost placements.
- **Ask local stores** if you can post print ads and posters or leave brochures. (Use the customizable template in the [Rotary Brand Center](#) to create a brochure for prospective members.)
- **Involve speakers**, grant recipients, past sponsors and donors in your projects and events.
- **Provide club members with materials** to promote Rotary and your club.
- **Encourage members to** wear their Rotary lapel pins and talk about Rotary and about your club.

Social Media

- **Share media coverage** on your club social media channels. If you have partner organizations, you can also collaborate on media outreach.
- **Post content** that is visually appealing and includes compelling statements about your club's activities.
- **Use the hashtags #PeopleofAction, #5630pride** when sharing personal stories and news about club projects and events.
- **Include quotes, photos, and videos from guest speakers** (with their permission) and link to their social media pages.
- **Keep your social media pages active** by sharing content from Rotary International's channels or those of trusted partners.
- Encourage members to **share your club's posts** through their own social media accounts.
- **Feature messages** intended for the general public.

Events

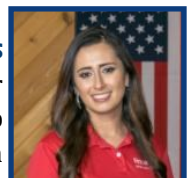
- **Host one signature event each year** to foster an ongoing awareness within the community.
- **Sponsor special events** such as marathons, recycling efforts, and fundraisers for a Rotary project or program.
- **Create exhibits** for museums, city halls, or libraries.
- **Plan and promote networking opportunities** and other activities that exemplify the benefits of joining Rotary.

Public Relations Campaign

See the [Rotary Public Relations Guide](#) for tips, templates, and best practices to learn further how to:

- Show Rotary's impact and value in your community
- Cultivate relationships with journalists and employ the right tactics and tools to get media coverage
- Clearly convey your message during interviews
- Manage, and respond effectively to media inquiries during a [crisis](#).

Lorena Beckius
District Public Image Chair
Ogallala Rotary Club
loreb@wolfauto.com





2022 – A welcome polio record!

The year 2021 had the lowest number of wild polio cases in history. The previous record low was 22 cases in 2017. **In 2021 there were five cases.** This is much fewer than 176 cases in 2019 or 169 cases in 2020. Even more encouraging, the only case in Pakistan was in January 2021. The other four cases in 2021 were in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan initiated a country-wide vaccination campaign on November 8th with full support of the Taliban leadership. Due to disruption of healthcare systems in recent months, the ability to reach rural areas has not been consistent; this remains a concern because of regions in Afghanistan which have not had access to polio vaccination in recent years. Even with Taliban support, this was not enough to prevent the killing of eight vaccination workers in February.

After more than 30 years of vaccination efforts to eradicate all three (Type 1, Type 2 and Type 3) wild polio viruses, **could the year 2022 be the final year for any cases of Wild Polio Virus Type 1?** It seems a hopeful possibility. (Wild Types 2 and 3 have already been eradicated.)

As long as polio remains anywhere, it is a threat to unvaccinated children in any part of the world, as demonstrated by a recent case in Malawi, which was contracted with spread from Pakistan.

Even if all Wild polio virus is eradicated, the polio fight will not be completed until the 'other polio' viruses are eradicated.

2021 An improved polio vaccine

In 2020, I wrote about the hopes for an improved vaccine to prevent the mutations which can very rarely occur when using the traditional oral polio vaccine (containing a weakened but live virus). In 2021, the new vaccine became a reality and won full approval after successful trials in Africa.

This will help several countries where a mutated polio virus is circulating, causing paralysis in young children. The virus originated from a live Type 2 polio virus that had been weakened (attenuated) for use as a vaccine. This vaccine has successfully protected millions of children. Unfortunately, low vaccination rates in some locations allowed the vaccine virus to spread and rarely mutate, regaining the ability to cause disease.

Fortunately, the new vaccine (nOPV2) is not only capable

of protecting against the mutated virus but is also engineered so that it will not mutate, itself. This will be essential to the final elimination of polio and safe withdrawal of vaccines in the future after eradication is completed.

This new vaccine is already being rolled out in selected areas where it is expected to play a critical role in cleaning up the rare examples of lingering mutations left over from the original Type 2 polio oral vaccine.



You Can Save a Child
from Lifelong Disability or Death

The WORLD NEEDS this new vaccine to finish the job of polio eradication.

Through Polio Plus, Rotary provides vaccines to the world – and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation matches our dollars 2 for 1.

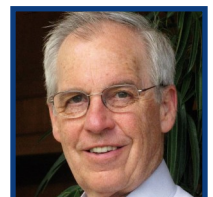
If you have not recently given, why not donate now? The world needs to END POLIO NOW! Your \$\$ will help!

THANK YOU for anything you can contribute!

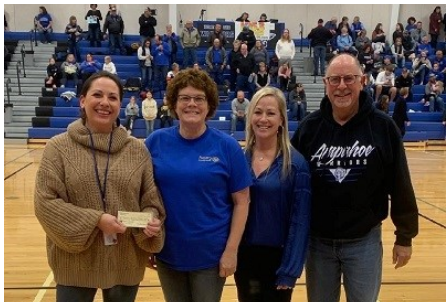
[Donate to End Polio](#)

Delane Wycoff

Polio Plus Chair, District 5630
delanew@charter.net



District 5630 Rotarians Take Action ...By Giving.



The **Cambridge Rotary Club** presented a check during halftime of a recent basketball game in Arapahoe to **Casie Helms** for the Arapahoe Backpack Program, which provides meals for kids at Arapahoe School each week to take home; it relies solely on donations. Pictured (L to R) *Casie Helms* of Arapahoe Backpack Program and *Debbi Runner, Kate Warner* and *Reg Warner* from the Cambridge Rotary Club.



Broken Bow Area Rotary facilitated the distribution of gifts for over 500 children and food for a holiday dinner and extras for the pantry for their families over the holidays. It's a longstanding tradition in Custer County – the need continues.

Donation Locations
Dollar General
Horizon Bank
The YMCA
Browns Shoe Fit
Acme Printing Co.
Gary's Super Foods
MFB Bank
Sehnerts
FEBRUARY 5TH - 13TH

In February, the **McCook Rotary Club** collected non-perishable foods and sundries at 8 locations around McCook. All proceeds were given to the McCook Food Pantry.



The **Kearney Dawn Club** supported local Eagle Scout **Drew Worm** in his community service project. Drew built shooting benches, a mobile work bench, and yardage markers for the shooting range shared by the Kearney Police Department and Buffalo County Sheriff's Offices.

...By Celebrating Rotary!



Cambridge Area Rotary members *Russ Wood* and *Brenda Hayes* present a cake baked and decorated by *Janet Cornwell*, in honor of **Rotary's 117th birthday!**

District 5630 Rotarians Take Action ...By Honoring Those Who Give



The **Arnold Rotary Club** awarded three new Paul Harris Fellows in January. This photo shows the *new Fellows and all the members in the club who are already Fellows. DGE *Deb McCaslin* was on hand to make the presentations.

From left to right: *Dell Cerny*; *Kelli Blevins*; **Jerry Ahrens* (non-Rotarian Fellow); **Echo Pelster*; *Irv Jennings*, President; *Al Bishop*; PE *Ron Cool*; DGN *Deb McCaslin*; *Mary Becker*; Former member **Bill Williams*; *Becky Dailey*, Past President; and *Kathy Schweitzer*, Treasurer.



Congratulations to *Sam Jaeger* of the **Cambridge Area Rotary Club** on his Paul Harris Fellow, presented here by Club President *Debbi Runner*.

And - on the right - *Debbi* presented *Virginia Roberts* with the **Cambridge Area Rotary Club's** Vocational Service Award. Virginia is very active in the community - helping with the School House restoration project, helping lead the update of the Cambridge Cemetery directory, volunteering in her church and many other organizations around the community while still working.



O'Neill Rotary Club's treasurer, *Cindy Cole*, was honored by the O'Neill Chamber of Commerce with their Community Service Award. The nomination read in part:

Cindy is helpful, resourceful, and happy to offer service no matter the task. Cindy takes it upon herself to go out and complete tasks that are often left unnoticed by the general public. She has been an unsung hero for many annual projects throughout the years, including the St. Patrick's Day Fun Run, the Summerfest Celebration, and the Christmas Closet, as well as many more. Without her work on these big projects, they might cease to exist.

Cindy is always willing to pitch in for the good of the community regardless of the mission. In our community, she has spent several years serving as Treasurer for the local Rotary Club. Fondly known as the go-to person of our club, Cindy understands the meaning of service and lives it every day.

District 5630 Rotarians Take Action ...By Honoring Those Who Give



North Platte Rotary Club. Above left: PE *David Greiner* and Club President *Louise Hoffmann* congratulate *Romano Polanco* on his Paul Harris Fellow. Above right: *Scott Orr* receives his Paul Harris +5 pin from Club Foundation Chair *Kendi McClain*.



Broken Bow Area Rotary is proud to call Broken Bow's Citizen of the Year one of their own – PE *Michelle Nelson*. This is a much deserved honor!



Chadron Rotary Club: *John 'Doc' Gamby*, *Terri Perkins Haynes Strand*, and *Drew Petersen* each achieved the milestone of \$1,000 donation to the Rotary Foundation and received their Paul Harris Fellows.

DG *Bob Mayber* presenting a Certificate to Club President *Daniel McMahon*, recognizing the **Hastings Sunrise Rotary Club** for their donation of \$1500 to PolioPlus.



Four past District Governors, the present District Governor, and the Mayor of Grand Island were on hand at the February 17th **Grand Island Sunrise Club** meeting to recognize Club President and District Governor Elect Nominee **Glenn Knuth** as a Rotary Major Donor - an award given to Rotarians who have given a cumulative contribution of \$10,000 to the Rotary Foundation.



DG *Bob Mayber* presented a crystal engraved with Glenn's name and a diamond lapel pin in recognition of Glenn's contributions to the Rotary Foundation.



Picture above, from left to right: PDG *Bob Taylor* (2020-21); DG *Bob Mayber* (2021-22); PDG *Don Peterson* (2015-16); DGEN *Glenn Knuth*; *Roger Steele*, Mayor of Grand Island; PDG *Dale Schultz* (2018-19); and PDG *Scott McLaughlin* (2019-20).

Broken Bow Area Honors One Who Gave Above and Beyond



Broken Bow Area Rotary was humbled to present *Sergeant Shane Fiorelli* with a “Rotary Hero” medal for his act of bravery entering a burning house to search for missing children. Pictured above are Broken Bow Area members *Christine Fiorelli*, *Stephanie Grafel*, Mayor and Rotarian *Rod Sonnichsen*, Club President *Jessica McCaslin*, *Sergeant Fiorelli*, DGE *Deb McCaslin*, PEN *Michaela Lewis* and City Administrator *Dan Knoell*. Photo by Norm McCaslin



Broken Bow Police Sergeant awarded medal for his Service above Self

In an act of bravery without any hesitation, Broken Bow Police Sergeant Shane Fiorelli risked his life to save others in a house fire in Broken Bow.

His colleagues said he’s a hero, and that’s why they presented him with the Broken Bow Heroism Award. Broken Bow Area Rotary was asked to be present, and the local Rotarians present Fiorelli with a Rotary Hero medal.

“I watched Shane in action, and that’s the important part. There was zero hesitation for himself, he heard there were possibly kids inside, no hesitation, Shane turned around and ran directly into the house. To me, that’s a hero,” said City Administrator Dan Knoell.

It started with a call for immediate action to a Broken Bow home as a garage on fire, then flames starting to spread to the rest of the home.

“When I went to the backside, to check the backside of the house, there was a dog back there barking, tied to a tree, so I retrieved the dog and took it to my

patrol car. That’s when the resident showed up and she was very worked up that her kids were still in the house,” said Fiorelli.

There was a window that wasn’t locked in the front of the residence and Fiorelli dove in.

And with a sigh of relief, the kids were found.

“The kids were actually down the street,” said Fiorelli.

“Shane is the first one to say 'I didn’t do anything that my fellow brothers, firefighters and PD wouldn’t have done' and he’s 100% probably right, but he did this,” said Knoell.

And Fiorelli humbly said he’s appreciative of the praise, but it was just what he had to do.

“We’ll do everything we can in our powers to provide the service and go above and beyond and like I said, my guys would do the same thing,” said Fiorelli.

And this is why Broken Bow Area Rotary was honored to present Fiorelli with a Service Above Self medal.

District 5630 Rotarians Take Action ...By Partying (with a Purpose)



Cambridge Area Rotary Club met in early March at Hojo's in Holbrook for a social gathering. They were joined by past members and a member of the McCook Rotary Club.

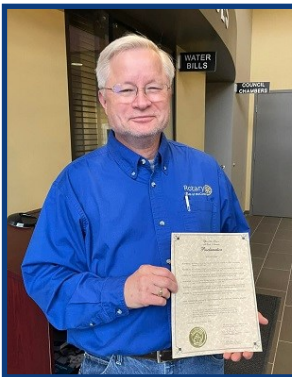


The Ogallala High School Interact Club hosted a Middle School Sweetheart Dance. "You provided the life of the party and the students had a blast! Thanks to the middle school students for attending and to the parents for bringing them." More party photos are on the Ogallala Rotary Club Facebook page.



At left: **Imperial Rotary's** Chocolate Affair is all about love, chocolate, and community! Members of the community provide all the desserts, and then buy tickets to try samples and bid on delectable desserts. Proceeds were used to buy new furniture for the Imperial Manor Parkview Heights.

...By Celebrating Milestones



Congratulations to the **McCook Rotary Club** on your 100th Anniversary!

Club President **Steve Rasmusen** holds the official proclamation from the City of McCook, declaring February 22nd as "Rotary Day" in McCook! The Club was founded on February 1, 1922.

...By Remembering Veterans



Members of the **Cambridge Area Rotary Club** placed wreaths on veterans' graves in December as part of Wreaths Across America. "It was a very humbling experience....and a pleasure to honor all the veterans."

District 5630 Rotarians Take Action... By Educating



Meet Joe Mlinar, **St. Paul Rotary's** "Mr. Dictionary." Joe phones the five local elementary schools to determine how many dictionaries they need, inserts the 4-Way Test into each dictionary, and recruits volunteers to distribute them. Then he organizes the Taco Feed fundraiser to pay for the next year's dictionaries.



The **St. Paul Rotary Club** donated \$10,000 to the St. Paul Early Childhood Foundation to help open two more preschool classes for 4 - and 5-year olds. Board members **Nekita Powell**, **Sara Paider**, and **MacKenzie Loofe** accept the check. Photo at right: New toys awaiting new students.

... By Welcoming New Members – and Young Visitors!



Congrats to **McCook Rotary's** newest members: at left - **Ben Dutton**, with his sponsor **Ronda Graff**; and at right - **Caitlyn Whitehead**, with her sponsor, **Catherine McDowell**, pictured with club president **Steve Rasmussen**.



Rev. Cyrus Rowan, principal of St. Cecilia Middle School and High School and assistant chief administrative officer of Hastings Catholic Schools, joined **Hastings Rotary Club** in December 2021.



Ogallala Rotary welcomed new members **Amanda Gardner** and **Gloria Valverde** in February.



St. Paul Interact officers joined the **St. Paul Rotary Club** at a January meeting. Meet **Jenna Jakybowski**, Vice President; **Samantha Obermiller**, Secretary; **Conner Wells**, Treasurer; **Olivia Poppert**, President; and **John Poppert**, school sponsor.

District 5630 Rotarians Take Action... By Volunteering



St. Paul Rotary: Joe Mlinar, Dee Mlinar, Loraine Lawler, Gale Larson, Lynn Larson, Dave Brehm, and Jordan Meyer (not pictured) funded and packed Mercy Meals for hungry people all over the world.



St. Paul - Masked and ready to work, Val Killinger and Joe Mlinar help the Red Cross Bloodmobile pack up at the end of a donation day. Blood goes anywhere it's needed.



St. Paul Rotarians Dave Harrington, Isaiah Graham, and Dave Brehm manned the bar at the Ducks Unlimited banquet to raise money for needs in many communities.



Hastings Noon Rotary Club members, family members, and local high school students who are part of the **Hastings Interact Club** packed meals in January for Hearts & Hands Against Hunger at the First Presbyterian Church's PEACE Center. Working alongside several other volunteers, the group of 24 Rotarians and guests and four Interact members helped pack a total of 16,848 meals in two hours' time.

Lake Mac Rotaract: At their December meeting, Lake Mac Rotaractors wrapped gifts for the Caring & Sharing Christmas program. Community members came to pitch in as well.

Arnold Rotarians Take Action... By Providing Shoes for Kenya's Children

On Thursday, March 24, **Arnold Rotary** will host a Pancake Supper to "Give A Child A Safe Foot Forward." The Free Will donations will be used to purchase shoes for kids at Overcoming Faith Schools in Kakamega, Kenya. A pair of leather oxfords costs \$22. The annual per capita income in Kenya is \$1,879, but in Kakamega County, the poorest county in Kenya, the annual income is a fraction of that amount.



Removing chiggers

Seventy percent of the students at the school are orphans. They typically wear flip flops rather than shoes. When they run and play, they kick off the flipflops. The continual exposure to dirt makes the kids susceptible to chiggers, which embed in their feet and spread.

2021 Medical Camp

This isn't the first Kenya project for Arnold Rotary.



Dr. Eric Schwartzkopf and **Louise Hoffmann**, North Platte Rotary Club President, with **Arnold Rotary** Sponsor Banner

The proceeds from the 2021 Pancake Supper were donated to a project led by five students from McDaid Elementary to replace school supplies and textbooks that were destroyed in a fire last spring. The kids' goal was to raise \$3,000; they raised more than \$12,000. In consultation with the head of the school, the decision was made to apply the Arnold Rotary funds to a medical camp. As a result, Arnold Rotary was named a sponsor of the medical camp which was held in Kakamega, Kenya.

The medical camps are the result of **Dr. Eric Schwartzkopf's** desire to return to Kenya to provide care. The doctor, who previously practiced in North Platte, had spent time in Kenya during his residency. A good friend of Dr. Kim Baxter, he was aware of the eye care missions to Kenya and saw an opportunity to help. Typhoid is dangerous for children and can cause life-threatening complications. Most Kenyan children are not vaccinated due to the vaccine cost of \$13 per dose. The kids also lack routine medical care.



Dr. Eric Schwartzkopf and Rotarian translator interview student during Medical Camp

During the camps, the physicians, (Dr. Schwartzkopf and two physicians from Kakamega County Hospital) performed a general physical. The kids were given over-the-counter medications for headaches and stomachaches as needed. During the three days of medical camps, 315 students were tested for typhoid, with 350 vaccinations administered. Three hundred thirty kids received deworming medication and multivitamins.

Reported by
Louise Hoffmann
President, North Platte Rotary



Brief History of District Grant P3511: Craig Memorial Medical Clinic in Shikunga, Kenya

How It Started

It started with this (edited) Project Summary posted by **North Platte Rotary Club** Foundation Chair *Kendi McClain* on July 17, 2020 at MatchingGrants.org:

The North Platte Noon Rotary Club, along with several other District 5630 partnering Rotary Clubs and individual donors are raising funds to build a medical clinic in the remote village of Shikunga, in western Kenya. This is the poorest area of that country and NP Rotarian Dr. Kim Baxter, who is an optometrist, has traveled to this village for two eye care missions (most recently with DGE Bob Mayber) and another time in conjunction with a \$136,000 District 5630 Global Grant to provide updated equipment and medical training for the neonatal/maternity wing of the nearby Kakamega County Hospital.

The clinic will provide a wide variety of medical services to the impoverished people of that area, including eye care, dental and other medical care of various specialties. **There are currently no such medical facilities or services available within a large area around Shikunga**, so we know that many of the surrounding villages in this very poor, rural area of Kakamega County will be served by this new medical clinic we propose to build. Realistically, this project will likely take 2-3 years to complete, requiring pooling of our District Grants throughout this same time period.

Once the construction of the building is completed, we anticipate being able to furnish and equip it mostly with donated medical equipment and supplies, with the remainder to be purchased through added donations. We also plan to establish a small foundation to provide ongoing funding for staffing, supplies, and maintenance of equipment to ensure long-term sustainability for this medical clinic.

Club members will be involved with fundraising, securing donated medical equipment and work on the clinic and within the village.

Addendum to Project Description (added after the project was signed): Made request to District Leadership for assistance in reopening the grant financing to update the budget to reflect the doubling of the size of the clinic and to report additional contributions of approximately \$18,000.

Then – affirming the cooperation typical of Rotary – several 5630 clubs donated a total of \$26,803 and applied their District Designated Funds (DDF) of \$10,597 to reach the Project Cost of \$37,400.

P-3511		Craig Memorial Medical Clinic		Administration	
Description	Financing	Documents	Photos	History Logs	
Proposed Financing					
Existing Contributions Towards This Project					
District 5630 DDF	17-Jul-20	-	\$4,972	\$4,972	\$4,972
Alliance (5630)	17-Jul-20	\$200	\$800	\$1,000	\$1,000
Arnold (5630)	17-Jul-20	\$125	\$500	\$625	\$625
Grant (5630)	17-Jul-20	\$200	\$800	\$1,000	\$1,000
O'Neill (5630)	17-Jul-20	\$231	\$925	\$1,156	\$1,156
Ogallala (5630)	17-Jul-20	\$125	\$500	\$625	\$625
North Platte (5630)	17-Jul-20	\$143	\$575	\$718	\$718
North Platte (5630)	20-Jul-20	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000
Chadron (5630)	20-Jul-20	\$93	\$375	\$468	\$468
Minden (5630)	20-Jul-20	\$143	\$575	\$718	\$718
Hastings (5630)	27-Jul-20	\$81	\$325	\$406	\$406
Curtis (5630)	27-Jul-20	\$62	\$250	\$312	\$312
North Platte (5630)	25-Aug-20	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000
North Platte (5630)	31-Aug-20	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000
North Platte (5630)	31-Aug-20	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000
North Platte Sunrise (5630)	31-Aug-20	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000
North Platte (5630)	31-Aug-20	\$2,400	\$0	\$2,400	\$2,400
Total			\$26,803	\$10,597	\$37,400

2022 Update



As of January 23, 2022
(from Clark G. Van Halsema on Facebook)

And this December 2021 note from *Dr. Kim Baxter*:

Several of us will be traveling to Kenya next month to conduct an eye care mission there for the very first time at the CMRC! ...This is only the beginning of the wide range of medical service missionaries that we anticipate will be rotating through the CMRC and the nearby Kakamega County Hospital.

Each of the partnering Rotary clubs of District 5630, as well as every one of their individual members and other generous donors, has made this possible and it is truly a miracle that it is now coming to fruition and our dreams are becoming reality! **This is truly what Rotary is all about and we can all feel proud to be part of it!**

More photos next page.

March 2022

Craig Memorial Medical Clinic in Shikunga, Kenya Photos from January 2022 Eye Clinic

Photos by Clark G. van Halsema
President and CEO Emeritus at IDEA Ministries



The 2022 Eye Clinic and Medical Project Team, hailing from Florida, Iowa, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, Ohio, Washington, and Wisconsin. Pastor *Clark Van Halsema* of Michigan (at far left) was in charge of logistics.

Can you spot *David Greiner*, *Dr. Kim Baxter*, and *Louise Hoffmann* of **North Platte Rotary**?



David Greiner, North Platte Rotary President-Elect, helping with registration.



Dr. Kim Baxter with eye patient.



Waiting to register for the eye clinic.



Queuing up for eye exams.
The team served 600 people in Shikunga.

High Country PETS: Can't Wait for Next Year!

by District RAGAS Chair Angie Swanson

High Country Presidents-Elect Training Seminar (PETS) encompasses six Rotary districts and is one of the most highly regarded training programs for Presidents-elect in the Rotary world." PETS brings in Rotarians from Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Wyoming and of course Nebraska.

I attended this conference not as a President-Elect or President-Elect Nominee (well, not yet), but as the **Rotary Action Group Against Slavery (RAGAS)** chair for District 5630. **As a small town girl living in McCook, an opportunity to meet like-minded people from across the globe who just want to do good in the world is just one of the many reasons I love Rotary.**

I was surrounded by Rotary superstars this weekend in Westminster, Colo. First, I want to tell you about a Rotarian named *Rebecca Jaffares*. She is a PE from the Wheat Ridge Rotary Club; however, Rebecca does not currently reside in Colorado. She lives in Germany where she joins her club via Zoom. Rebecca gave the Inspiration Friday evening, and I was immediately captivated. Her inspiration was a poem she wrote called "The Life We Live," and one line stuck out to me that I will never forget: "Ambition never grows in comfort zones."

Not many people know that I used to be very shy and anxious when meeting new people, but not anymore. Rotary has brought me out of my shell and makes me want to engage with new people and has allowed me to embrace the spunky, energetic, vertically-challenged, and sometimes very loud Rotarian that I have become. Rotary has made me want to venture out of my comfort zone to act on the ambitions that I have for myself, my clubs, and my District. Rebecca signed a copy of her poem for me to take home, and I will continue to read it daily for inspiration.

Another superstar I was able to see this weekend is one of 17 Rotary International Directors, *Suzi Howe*, from the Space Center Rotary Club in Houston. I met Suzi last year at Zone Institute in Houston, and after only meeting her for a few minutes I could tell she was going to be an inspiration to me for years to come. Suzi's accomplishments, recognitions, and awards are a mile long, but she is one of the most down-to-earth and easily approachable people I have ever met.

She was able to attend many of our District breakout sessions this weekend and even joined us later for some down time where she was "just one of us."

Though I didn't have a chance to visit with her, I was able



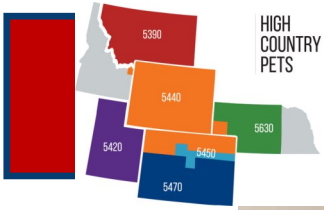
RI Director *Suzi Howe*, RAGAS Chair *Angie Swanson* (McCook); Wheat Ridge PE *Rebecca Jaffares* (District 5450); and District 5630 2022-23 Membership Chair *Kellie Soden* (McCook).

to hear a wonderful message from our Rotary International President Nominee *Gordon McNally* from the Rotary Club of South Queensferry in Scotland who will serve as RI President for the 2023-2024 Rotary year. We also watched a video message from RI President Elect for the year 2022-2023, *Jennifer Jones*, who will be the first woman Rotary International President. What a great time to be a Rotarian!

Without this wonderful opportunity, I would not have had the chance to meet such inspiring people, so I believe I owe District Governor Elect *Deb McCaslin* a HUGE thank you. Thank you for believing in me, Deb, and giving me the opportunity to attend such a powerful event and be surrounded by some amazing Rotarians. Our current DG *Bob Mayber* is encouraging and always listening to my crazy ideas with a smile and affectionately refers to me as "Little One." From our rockstar Rotaractors' contagious passion and energy to our Polio Plus champions, to our Rotary Foundation expert to our executives who work behind the scenes to make sure everything falls into place: I am blessed to serve with some of the best.

Our District team members are some of the most selfless people I have ever met in my life, and they make me want to be a better Rotarian and a role model for all the Rotarians in our District. I consider them all friends, not just teammates. I met many PEs and PENs this weekend who I know will be great leaders for their clubs this next Rotary year and I can't wait to see what they do in their year as President.

This is an experience I will never forget, and it only grew my love for Rotary even more. I can't wait for PETS next year!



HIGH COUNTRY PETS

PICS from the 2022 HIGH COUNTRY PETS



RIPEN Gordon McNally



RI Director Vicki Puliz



RI President-Elect Jennifer Jones

Imagine! (cont'd from page 2)

- **Increased our Ability to Adapt** by building a culture of research, innovation and a newfound willingness to take risks. This means trying new things – streamlining our governance, structure and processes, and taking the time to review said governance to foster more diverse perspectives in decision-making.

None of this is easy – and for each of our wonderful clubs this vision looks different – that’s part of why I love this year’s theme - Imagine.

RIPE Jones said it best, **“Imagine a world that deserves our best, where we get up each day knowing that we can make a difference.”**

Thank you! In this world of ours we are making a difference – collectively club-by-club we make a difference. No one knows your club, your club members, your communities better than you –

For all of this, and for each of you, I am deeply grateful. Thank you for your service, for your time, your energies and for all you give.



DGE Deb McCaslin 2022-23
Broken Bow Area Rotary Club
dmccaslinx4@gmail.com

“I Will Never Go Back!” (cont'd from page 3)

profession, my apartment, my job. Even when consumer goods were available, I had only one 'brand' of shoes, soap, or . . . toothpaste. Standing there among these Americans so easily making decisions about matters large and small in their lives—I felt like a child among adults." He told how, when he returned to Ukraine, he had to "put his Soviet face back on. Appearing too happy was suspicious."

Late into the evening, after entirely too much caviar and vodka, Karl asked: "Vlad, Ukraine is just beginning its journey to freedom. Do you believe it will stay the course?" This mild-mannered, soft-spoken, 50-year-old Ukrainian cardiologist was silent a long time, staring into his glass. Then he lifted his head and looked straight at me across the table. "I do not know," he said softly. "But I do know this. I will never go back. I will pick up a gun. I will fight in the streets. But I will never . . . go . . . back."

"Vlad"—If you're among those who were in the streets—I hope you are well and safe.

Karl Borden is professor of finance at the University of Nebraska-Kearney and a past district governor for Rotary International. Sandra Borden is a nurse practitioner.

What is Rotary doing for Ukraine? The Rotary Foundation has created an official channel for Rotary members around the world to contribute funds for Ukrainian relief efforts. Find out what they are doing at [Rotary.org - Ukraine Support](https://www.rotary.org/en/ukraine-support).



District 5630 *Rotarians in Action* is published quarterly. Archives are posted in PDF format at rotary5630.org and at DACdb.com—District. We encourage Rotarians to use this newsletter both internally and externally as a resource for club newsletters and for the advancement of Rotary.

The publication target date for the next District 5630 newsletter is June 15, 2022.

Please submit your photos and/or articles by Wednesday, May 25, to daa@5630mail.org.

Thanks, Cheryl Bryan

Rotary District 5630 - *Rotarians in Action*



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

2021-22

RI President: **Shekhar Mehta**

District Governor: **Bob Mayber**

Newsletter Editor: Cheryl Bryan (daa@5630mail.org)



[Rotary5630.org](https://www.rotary5630.org) District 5630 Rotary Clubs