

December 2014



**DG Debra
Rodenbaugh-Schaub**

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To submit articles and pictures for the District Newsletter, send to Linda Ireland by the 15th of each month.

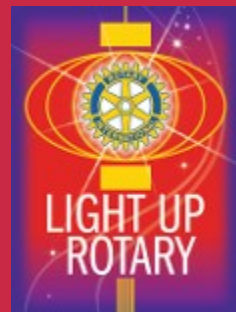
District 5710

Eastern Kansas Rotary

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Message from DG Deb . . . And Your December Newsletter

Warm Greetings, Dear Friends!

We've enjoyed Thanksgiving and counted our blessings – and now look forward to the beautiful holiday season which December brings! May it be one of joy and peace for each of you and yours!

I'm happy to share exciting news of our ongoing efforts with online donations toward our "Celebration of Life Balloons" project – we have \$3,643.58 to date, so with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation 2 to 1 match, we're now at \$10,930.74 – and, with your ever-present generosity, that number will continue to grow until May 8th! As you know, this celebration takes place Friday, May 8th, during the opening evening reception of our District Conference in Manhattan. Your donations of \$20.18 per balloon – the 20.18 being our special way to highlight the "goal year of 2018" – move us ever closer toward our goal to achieve a lasting polio-free world by 2018! Please be sure to donate online at www.rotary5710.org

And another exciting announcement—our CLUB CENTRAL CROWN CLUBS—clubs which have entered this Rotary year's goals online at RI Club Central—will be entered in a drawing for 1,000 Paul Harris Fellow points. The drawing will be held January 31st. To be eligible for this drawing, your club must enter both membership goal numbers and Foundation-giving goal numbers online at RI Club Central prior to January 31st.

As we approach the halfway point of the year, please remember to review the RI Presidential Citation criteria. I know receiving the RI Presidential Citation Award is a cherished tradition for our Clubs!

Thank you for your continued commitment to Rotary, both locally and globally – it is so tremendously important, needed and appreciated. Enjoy this special season and the beauty of our winter wonderland!

Yours in Rotary Service,
DG Deb



District Events

**For Details go to the District Events section
at rotary5710.org**

PRE-ACCELERATE ROTARY SOCIAL

January 30, 2015
Boulevard Grill at Holiday Inn
Lawrence, KS

ACCELERATE ROTARY/DISRICT ASSEMBLY

January 31, 2015
Holiday Inn—Lawrence, KS

2015 HEARTLAND PETS

(President-Elect Training Session)
March 5-7, 2015
Four Points by Sheraton
Manhattan, Kansas

DISTRICT GOLF TOURNAMENT

May 8, 2015
Colbert Hills Golf Course—Manhattan, KS

CELEBRATE ROTARY/DISTRICT CONFERENCE CELEBRATION OF LIFE BALLOON RELEASE

May 8-9, 2015
Four Points by Sheraton—Manhattan, Kansas

RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Academy)

May 31—June 4, 2015
(Tentative Dates)
Kansas University, Lawrence

2015 ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

June 6-9, 2014
San Paulo, Brazil

2016 HEARTLAND PETS

(President-Elect Training Session)
March 3-5, 2015
Four Points by Sheraton—Manhattan, Kansas



Club Events

If your club is on ClubRunner, add the event to your website and click to share with the District.

Not on ClubRunner? Send the event details to Linda at linda@rotary5710.org.

2015

OVERBROOK

January 10—Community Chili & Dessert Dinner

TOPEKA WEST

January 17—Pancake Feed

OSKALOOSA

February 13—Treats For Your Sweets

OVERBROOK

February 14—Annual Pancake Feed

VILLAGE WEST

February 20—Crabfest

WESTERN JOHNSON COUNTY

February 28—Around the World Party

LENEXA

March 7—ShrimpFest

LEAVENWORTH

March 16—St. Patrick's Day Irish Stew and Silent Auction

SHAWNEE

April 4—Taste of Shawnee

JOHNSON COUNTY SUNSET

June 6—Canoe Cruise

OVERLAND PARK SOUTH

June 20, 21—Jazz in the Woods

OVERLAND PARK

July 4—Star Spangled Spectacular

New Club Members for October

Burlington.....Scott Hannon
 DeSoto.....Mary Leslie
 Lawrence Jayhawk.....Micki Chestnut, Matthew Stephens, David Wensel
 Leavenworth.....Mark Schoenemann, Lori Simmons
 Leawood.....Adam Dinkel
 Louisburg.....Brock Elliott
 Manhattan.....Jackie Schlup
 Manhattan Konza.....Mitch Beims, David Claus, Corey Kephart, Christine Robinson, Chad Thacker
 Olathe.....Aimee Hruska, Jasen Mangrum, Suzanne Willey
 Overland Park.....Katie Lord
 Overland Park South.....Kati Farney, Terrie VanZandt-Travis
 Shawnee.....Robb Garr
 Shawnee Mission.....Sarah Mai
 Topeka Downtown.....Zhen Chen, Brendan Wiley
 Topeka South.....Douglas Gerber
 Village West.....Jeffrey Alderman, Cathi Hahner
 Western Johnson County.....Nick Pickard

* sleigh bells ring *  rudolph the red-nosed reindeer
 it's a marshmellow world in the winter *chestnuts roasting on an open fire* santa baby
 santa clause is coming to town ***

NEW RI Dues Processing Easier For Clubs



Beginning January 1, 2015, all clubs will receive the new club invoice from Rotary International—replacing the lengthy and complicated SAR (semi-annual report). This simpler invoice process will save clubs time, effort and money.

The new invoice eliminates the need for your club to fill out worksheets, recalculate dues owed, and write in new members/terminated members. Instead, your club receives a one page form that clearly states the amount owed.

What does this mean? If your club is on ClubRunner, these items are completed on your club website. If your club is not on ClubRunner, these items must be completed on the DISTRICT website. Because all District 5710 clubs are integrated with the RI database through ClubRunner, **do not make changes on the RI website.**

- New members **MUST** be added within 30 days
- Terminations **MUST** be reported within 30 days
- Incoming club officers **MUST** be reported by February 1 for the incoming Rotary year
- All club officers will receive the club invoice by email by the end of January and July
- Clubs will be billed for all active members as of January 1/July 1 and will be required to pay the amount appearing on the invoice.
- **THE MEMBERSHIP NUMBER ON YOUR CLUB WEBSITE OR DISTRICT WEBSITE ON JANUARY 1 AND JULY 1 WILL BE THE NUMBER YOU WILL BE INVOICED FOR RI DUES. You cannot change this number.** For instance, if a member terminates December 27, but is not recorded until January 28, the club will have to pay the RI dues for that person because the member is still on the club roster as of January 1.
- **The job description for the club secretary just got simplified!!**
- Starting in July 2015 you will no longer receive a membership list with the invoice. Your membership list will be what has been reported to RI through your club or the district website.
- Clubs are required to pay all outstanding dues upon receipt of the invoice. **Clubs will be subject to termination for nonpayment of dues 120 days after the invoice was issued.**
- Have a new member transferring from another Rotary club? If their dues were paid by the prior club for the preceding payment cycle, your club will not be required to pay the member's dues until the next invoice. If this member was not included on the former club's invoice, your club will be assessed pro rata dues for the member on the next invoice.

FROM JOHN P HEWKO, RI General Secretary

Meeting this deadline can be challenging if you're trying to chase down payment from more than a few members. If you have club members who chronically pay their dues late but always renew, we recommend that you don't remove them from your records. If you aren't sure whether a member will continue with your club and you don't want to risk paying dues for them, do ahead and remove them. If they do renew, you'll be invoiced for them in the pro rata section of the July invoice.



With a little TEAMWORK with your club officers, this can be a very easy transition.

Have questions? Contact Linda at the district office, linda@rotary5710.org.

Foundation Banquet Highlights. . . Rotarian Generosity Abounds!

In what has become the largest gathering of District Rotarians each year, the 9th Annual Foundation Banquet took place Saturday, November 15th. 181 Rotarians and their guests gathered at the Overland Park Sheraton to celebrate the work of The Rotary Foundation (TRF) and honor clubs and individuals for their support. Highlighting the event was the award of The Rotary Foundation's Citation for Meritorious Service to Phil Coolidge (Topeka).

2013-14 giving to the Foundation was highlighted by many firsts:

- \$450,502 in total giving (includes Polio, etc) to TRF, most ever in D5710
- \$181.14 per capita in total giving to TRF, most ever in D5710
- \$124.30 per capita to the Annual Fund/SHARE, most ever in D5710

Also of significance was the recognition of the 58% increase in total members of The Bequest Society. 34 new members joined 26 existing members and a number of existing members increased their pledge. The Bequest Society members pledge a minimum of \$10,000 to TRF in their estate.

Club per capita giving was announced with all Star Clubs (\$100+ per capita giving) receiving their "stars" for their club banner. The Shawnee Club, with record setting \$460.18 per capita giving, was also recognized for having the highest total giving in 2013-14 which for a mid-size club is a first. Here is the list of Star Clubs last Rotary year:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Shawnee, \$460.18 | 15. Lenexa, \$125.53 |
| 2. Leawood, \$394.30 | 16. Ottawa, \$121.96 |
| 3. Western Johnson County, \$230.32 | 17. Manhattan Konza, \$115.79 |
| 4. Gardner, \$217.48 | 18. Johnson County, \$112.17 |
| 5. Shawnee Mission, \$197.73 | 19. Lawrence Central, \$110.89 |
| 6. Lawrence Jayhawk, \$176.84 | 20. Village West, \$109.76 |
| 7. Emporia, \$170.14 | 21. Topeka South, \$109.26 |
| 8. Leavenworth, \$168.63 | 22. Overland Park South, \$104.48 |
| 9. De Soto, \$167.86 | 23. Topeka West, \$101.80 |
| 10. Overland Park, \$141.46 | 24. Howard, \$101.67 |
| 11. Paola, \$135.71 | 25. Overbrook, \$101.00 |
| 12. Topeka, \$129.41 | 26. Atchison, \$100.33 |
| 13. Olathe, \$128.56 | 27. Valley Heights Blue Rapids, \$100.00 |
| 14. Olathe-Santa Fe Trail, \$127.50 | |

Our keynote for the evening captivated the audience. Tyler Nottberg, CEO of US Engineering and founder of the Alliance for Childhood Education, discussed business and Rotarian's roles in our primary education systems in Kansas and Missouri. Emphasizing the need to focus more attention and funding on early childhood education, Tyler's presentation spoke directly towards Rotary's efforts in EarlyAct programs worldwide.

All clubs are encouraged to plan ahead for next year's 10th Annual Foundation Banquet (tentatively 11/14/15) and budget club resources to encourage member attendance. Club purchasing of tables demonstrates commitment and leadership to members and encourages their participation in District functions and to support The Rotary Foundation. See District Rotary Foundation Chair, PDG Kevin Tubbesing, for any questions: Kevin@KevinTubbesing.com.

Citation for Meritorious Service Awarded to Phil Coolidge

Phil Coolidge was nominated for his work with the GSE program over the past 15 years. Phil was a team leader to Japan in 2004. The members of that GSE team who have joined Rotary still revere Phil as a great leader and a good Rotarian. He was the District GSE Chair for many years with Inbound and Outbound responsibilities. Separately taking responsibility for the teams in alternate years. In the outbound years he was responsible for training the team, insuring that the host country was prepared for them and schedules were coordinated. The years when he was inbound chair, Phil lined up host clubs and families throughout the district. As GSE changed to VTT, Phil shared his knowledge with team leaders and host clubs in the District. For the many years of service to the Rotary Foundation insuring that District 5710 participated in the GSE exchanges, the Trustees of the Rotary Foundation award the Citation for Meritorious Service to Rotarian Phil Coolidge of the Topeka Downtown Rotary Club. District 5710 heartily congratulates Phil and thanks him for his tremendous dedication and commitment to Rotary.



L to R: PDG Jim Mattes, Phil's daughter Janet Coolidge, Phil Coolidge, Phil's wife Collette Coolidge, PDG Vickie Randel, PDG Larry Dimmitt

Calling all Motorcycle-Ridin' Rotarians!



Would you like to join members of the Lenexa Rotary Club when they ride their motorcycles around the perimeter of District 5710? The project is to raise funds and awareness for polio eradication. The ride is May 1- 8, 2015 culminating at District Conference in Manhattan with an approximate arrival time in Manhattan on Friday, May 8th at 2 pm. This arrival time allows time to get ready for the 5:30 pm District Conference opening reception. Ride the whole way or just a few miles. Not a rider but want to help...there are opportunities for that as well. This project is still in the planning phase so your input, or any question, is welcome.

Contact Lenet Compton at lenetcompton@gmail.com if you have questions, are interested in riding or want to learn how you can help.

Dates to know –

- January 30: Route announced and supplies ordered
- April 1: Notify clubs and media along the route of arrival dates
- May 1: Launch from Lenexa
- May 8: Arrive in Manhattan at District Conference no later than 2:00pm

RLI Class Continues on Their Path . . . Session II a Huge Success

Session II of our first-ever RLI class was held in Topeka on Saturday, November 22nd. It was a great class led by RLI Certified Facilitators Adam Ehlert, Village West and Sharon Sweeney, Valley Falls along with RLI District Coordinator Blanche Parks. The topics covered Strategic Planning, Targeting Members and Recruitment and Retention. The participants range in all ages and eagerly participate in discussion. As you can see, everyone is happy to have been in educational and informative discussion regarding the wonderful world of Rotary!



Celebration of Life Balloon Release Event



(Balloons for this release are bio-degradable/
environmentally friendly!)

The proceeds of each on your donations of \$20.18—2018 year highlighting the Rotary International goal to eradicate polio from the face of the earth—per memory balloon from this beautiful district event will be used to help those in need through our End Polio Now efforts.

The dollars raised from this project will be matched 2 to 1 with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation—up to a \$35 million “matching cap” per year. ***Make your donations to the Celebration of Life Balloon Release soon to be sure your contribution is included in the 2 to 1 match to triple our impact.***

Participate in the district Celebration of Life Balloon Release at the opening reception of the District Conference on May 8, 2015 from the rooftop of the Flint Hills Discovery Center in Manhattan, Kansas.

To remember your loved ones in this special way, please **[CLICK HERE](#)**.

2015 Rotary Peace Fellowship Awarded



Congratulations to Ryadi Adityavarman for being selected by the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation to receive a 2015 Rotary Peace Fellowship for studies as part of the Rotary Peace Centers program. Ryadi was interviewed and selected by the Manhattan Rotary Club and by the District RPF committee as our District 5710 candidate to be submitted to the Rotary Foundation Trustees. Ryadi will be studying at the Rotary Peace Center at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand from June 10 - August 18, 2015.

Ryadi has 20 years of experience as an educator and previously as a professional designer. He is currently an Associate Professor in the Interior Architecture and Product Design program at Kansas State University. Ryadi is very passionate about enhancing his students' awareness and understanding of the connection between social issues and design. Ryadi shared with the committee his goal if chosen for the Fellowship; "I intend to gain a theoretical understanding of conflict resolution, analyze issues of conflict, choose proper strategies for resolution, and apply comprehensive action for sustainable peace." Congratulations Ryadi and we wish you the best in your studies!

The Rotary Peace Fellowship is an academic scholarship that supports Rotary's mission to empower, educate, and increase the capacity of peace builders through training, practice, and global networking opportunities. The fellowship is intended for individuals who have chosen a career related to international relations, peace, and conflict resolution and who have a commitment to community or international humanitarian service and working for peace.

There are two programs: Master's degree (15-24 months) and Professional Development Certificate (3 months). Each program is awarded to a maximum of 50 recipients worldwide each year and covers tuition, fees, room and board, and transportation. We are currently recruiting applicants for the 2016 Fellowships. Applications may be found on the District website and are due to the District by April 15, 2015. Please take the time to think about individuals that you know who may be good candidates for this premier academic scholarship. Contact Patti Bossert, 785-272-9999, patti@keystaffing.com for more information or for help with the application process.

Importance of Foundation Giving



Paul Harris Society Committee Chair Chuck Udell, recently shared his presentation to Manhattan Konza Club about the importance of RI Foundation giving. For a club presentation or questions, contact Chuck at: chuckudell@msn.com.



Dedication of Rotary Clock Tower



Shawnee Mission Rotary Club members gathered for the dedication of the Rotary Clock Tower in Rotary Plaza in downtown Mission on November 14. The Clock Tower was dedicated in honor of PDG John Hollyman and two other charter members of the club, O. M. Ashe and Reuben E. Sell. Pictured to the left are members of Shawnee Mission Rotary Club with President Nate Ourada at the mic and third from the left, Mission Mayor Steve Schowengerdt.

Update on District 5710 STEM Initiatives

Below is an update on what some of District 5710's clubs are pursuing for the 2014-2015 STEM education vocational initiative.

- Western Johnson County is considering sponsoring a Big Brother Big Sister robotics team and STEM job shadowing/mock interviews for BIGS.
- Leavenworth has established an interdisciplinary team of Rotarians and non-Rotarians to discuss collaborative STEM projects with a regional impact. Participants include the University of St. Mary's, Kansas City Community College, and the Leavenworth Public Library.
- Overland Park South already sponsors a mentorship program at Southwest High School in robotics where 85% of the participants are young women. The club also sponsors Blue Valley CAPS scholarships where 3 out of 4 scholarships go to young women pursuing STEM careers.



Please share a brief paragraph about your Club's vocational services projects for inclusion in future District newsletters. For more information about how your club can get involved in the STEM initiative, [CLICK HERE](#) or contact Martha Hagedorn-Krass, District 5710 Vocational Committee Chair, Email: disneyschool1926@gmail.com, PH: [785-633-3230](tel:785-633-3230).

Youth Exchange—Busy October!

October was a busy month for our Youth Exchange program and students. Several clubs around the district were recruiting and interviewing students that may be outbound Rotary Youth Exchange students during the 2015-16 school year. We are happy to have Spring Hill and Louisburg joining the program! Spring Hill has been involved in past years and we are glad to have them involved again.

Below are some of the Youth Exchange activities for October:

- October 1st: working with the Louisburg club and starting up their program. Several inbound students helped with orientations.
- October 2nd: Minnie Wedding did her presentation at the Gardner Rotary club. Minnie was outbound to Spain last year.
- October 3rd: the Gardner inbound exchange students, Fanny and Emilia helped with a program at the DeSoto Rotary club to promote Youth Exchange.
- October 7th: the Shawnee Mission School District had a special dinner and reception for all of the inbound Youth Exchange students from all programs. Rotary was well represented.
- October 8th: the Gardner Interact club and inbound students helped with a fund raiser at a middle school. Several hours in the evening organizing the distribution of cookie dough.
- October 11th weekend: Our inbound Youth Exchange students helped with “Christmas in October”. We partnered with the Overland Park South Rotary club and Jacob Wayman was our coordinator. About 30 Rotarians and Youth Exchange students met in Kansas City, Missouri and helped a family with their home. The home needed work inside and out. Our Youth Exchange students concentrated on the outside of the home and the yard. We worked all day and the YE students really did a great job cleaning up the yard and the basement. After a long day of work, we all got cleaned up, had a nice dinner together and then went to the ballet and enjoyed “Alice in Wonderland”.
- During the last weeks of October, several of the inbounds helped with the process of promoting Youth Exchange to clubs in our district that have not been involved with Youth Exchange recently.
- October 25-26: Our Inbound students along with many Interact students and a few Rotarians worked to load a 40’ container with medical supplies bound for Guatemala. We moved stored medical supplies from the Ensor Farm house in Olathe and other locations to the Olathe Bible Church in Olathe. Then we loaded the 40’ container. Wes McCoy and Jorge Coromac supervised the project and loading of the container.
- Special thanks to the Olathe Bible Church and Woodland Charities Guatemala.



Youth Exchange—Busy October (Cont)

- Later this weekend, we all made a visit to the haunted houses in downtown KC. We all had a wonderful time!
- Later in October, two of the students helped with the Boo Bash in Gardner, Kansas. This is an event where the community provides a safe environment for the Halloween tradition in a park. Games are set up and candy is distributed. Over a thousand young children had a wonderful time playing games and receiving candy. Many service clubs, including Rotary helped out at this event. Our Youth Exchange students and Interact students were a big part of this volunteer group.

We should all be proud of our inbound Youth Exchange students! They all have helped so much with community service projects, club visits, and promoting Youth Exchange.

We have 9 inbound students this year.

The are:

Claudio-Italy hosted by Topeka-Downtown

Mattia-Italy hosted by Atchison

Emma – Italy hosted by Shawnee

Amalie – Denmark hosted by Overland Park

Mads-Emil – Denmark hosted by Overland Park South

Lena – Austria hosted by Lenexa

Frederik – Belgium hosted by Shawnee Mission

Fanny – Romania hosted by Gardner

Emilia – Peru hosted by Gardner



A visit to the Overbrook Club to promote Youth Exchange.



Fanny and Amalia with Robert Thompson—off for a shopping trip!

Thank you to all the clubs, host families, counselors, Rotarians that make this program so successful!

Thank you to Steve Wheatley, Atchison club!
He does so much for the outbound students!!!



Woodland Public Charity in coordination with Olathe Bible Church and Rotary International District 5710 send more than \$65,000 humanitarian aid to Guatemala.

This Saturday, October 25, Woodland and Olathe Bible Church unified efforts to send humanitarian aid to Guatemala that includes: chairs, wheelchairs, walkers, canes, crutches, plastic containers, filters water, beds, baby cribs, orthopedic equipment, wireless notebooks, educational kits for dental health and books.



All this has been donated by people like Greg Peterson of the Lenexa Rotary Club, Gary Dugan (Gardener RC)r, Mary Leslie and John Khoury from Custom Foods Inc, Ed Coulter of Ottawa RC, Topeka South Rotary Club, West side CAN Center, Rotary District 5710 as well as many people who voluntarily donate the supplies.



"This Saturday, October 25, from 8:00 am the Youth Exchange students from D5710, the youths of Interact of Shawnee Mission Northwest High School Club and Rotarians helped with the transportation and organization of all donations received, said Wes R. McCoy Past District Governor of District 5710. "It's amazing to see how young people helped each other in the organization and classification of all donations. They are a real example of the service that rotary does both locally and internationally".



The estimated of all donation amounts its more than \$65,000 in humanitarian aid, plus more than 193 hours of volunteerism and support of 22 Rotarians, 7 Interactors and 9 exchange students from Peru, Italy, Belgium, Austria, Denmark.



"We thank infinitely Olathe Bible Church that support with the payment of the container that we are sending from Olathe, KS to Guatemala", commented Jorge Coromac, Executive Director of Woodland. "It is an

honor to be able to coordinate with humanitarian organizations as Olathe Bible Church because it focuses on bringing humanitarian aid is not only local but also internationally. In the month of July Olathe Bible Church sent a total of 15 volunteers to support the Access to Education, Health and Safe Drinking Water that Woodland leads in Guatemala.



"Is also an honor to coordinate with Interactors of Shawnee Mission Northwest Club, Youth Exchange Group, Rotarians from clubs of Olathe Noon, Lenexa, Shawnee Mission, Topeka South, Gardener and organizations as West CAN Center and Custom Foods Inc., which donated 840 water buckets that will serve to provide water filters for 420 families", commented Coromac.



Woodland Public Charity is a non-profit organization based in Kansas City, MO that since 2002 implements programs in Central America. To know more about the programs or to become a volunteer for Woodland

contact jorgec@woodlandpc.org or www.woodlandcharities.org



Woodland Public Charity

Kansas City, Kansas Club Recognizes Public Safety Professional

The Kansas City, Kansas Rotary Club, at its October 14, 2014, luncheon, recognized this year's Public Safety professional from the Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department.

Annually the Club recognizes an outstanding public safety professional from the Fire Department. This Kansas City, Kansas Rotary Club program demonstrates/shows appreciation to the individuals who do so much to protect our community. The leadership of the Fire Department select an outstanding individual from their department to receive this award, recognizing the individual's dedication and service to our community.



Pictured L to R: KCK Rotary Club President Ken Davis, KCK Fire Captain Timothy R. Cottrell, KCK Fire Chief John Paul Jones

We would like to extend our gratitude to **Captain Timothy R. Cottrell**. He is a prime examples of the great men and women of the KCK Fire Department who are protecting us every day. Captain Cottrell was introduced by Fire Chief John Paul Jones, who shared highlights of Captain Cottrell's professionalism and heroism. Senior Deputy Chief Craig Duke, Deputy Chief Mike Wilson and Senior Operations Chief Dave Korosac also accompanied Captain Cottrell and Chief Jones at the award presentation.

Peanut Butter Challenge for Harvesters Community Food Network

The Shawnee Rotary Club's Community Service Chair, Michelle Land, learned that Harvesters Community Food Network was in dire need of peanut butter. In response, the Shawnee Rotary Club challenged all other Rotary Clubs in Johnson County to collect peanut butter during the month of October.

The following Clubs accepted the challenge: Olathe, Western Johnson County, Lenexa, Shawnee Mission, DeSoto and Johnson County Sunset. The Overland Park South Rotary Club made a contribution as well. Close to 1,400 jars of peanut butter were collected and the following organizations benefited from the donations: Harvesters, Shawnee Community Services and the newly formed DeSoto Food Pantry. Harvesters said that this was by far the largest donation of peanut butter it had ever received and was extremely grateful.



Thanks to all the Clubs for accepting the challenge and the winners are all the people who will be fed by the generosity of Rotarians.

Joni Pflumm, Shawnee Rotary Club

Club Happenings



First Annual **Oskaloosa Club's** Crooked Post Winery Fund-raiser was a great success and shared interest in Rotary with some new prospective members. L to R: DG Deb, AG Tom Gray, Club President Taylor King.



To raise awareness and critically-needed funds to fight the crippling disease polio, **Overbrook Rotary Club** recently set up a table at O'Bryhim's Thriftway to raise awareness and collect donations on World Polio Day. Donations from Overbrook Rotarians, plus the amount collected at the awareness campaign, totaled \$651. After the 2-to-1 match from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the total dollars attributed to the Overbrook Rotary Club will be just over \$2,000.



DG Deb (far left) having a great time at the **Bonner Springs Club** Speakeasy with some of the youth volunteers.



It Turns Out That Fighting Polio is Good Training to Fight Ebola



Nigeria has been a stubborn hot spot of polio — and that turned out to be a good thing when it came time to fight Ebola.

In late July, a patient with the deadly Ebola virus arrived from Liberia. Health workers knew what to do. The country has created a massive public health effort to wipe out polio; institutions and strategies were repurposed to fight Ebola.

On the other hand, anti-polio efforts in the countries hit hardest by Ebola are on hold — and that could lead to disaster.

First, the good news, from Nigeria.

One of the country's polio institutions is an emergency operations center run by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. At the request of the government, senior officials from the center were sent to Lagos to help set up an emergency operations center for Ebola.

Because of the anti-polio efforts, health workers in Nigeria were ready for Ebola. They had already been trained in [contact tracing](#). And hospitals had procedures in place for reporting polio cases, says Jay Wenger, head of polio efforts at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which provides financial support to NPR as well as the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

"How you organize a team, how you collect the information, how you collate the information and make it available, is all part of the deal with polio," says Wenger. "They just transferred some of those techniques to the Ebola response." [Nigeria was declared](#) Ebola-free the second week of October.

There's a lesson to be learned, says Wenger: it's a good idea to have resources and trained personnel capable of dealing with more than just a single disease. "Both polio and Ebola are examples of diseases we can handle if we have the adequate kind of health systems around," he says. "We need to do what we can to strengthen the health systems in many underdeveloped countries."

But it takes time to create such systems. That means bad news on the polio front in the three countries with the highest Ebola counts.

In September, 18 African countries including Nigeria synchronized a [polio vaccination campaign](#), and reached 94 million children. Successful immunization requires several boosters, so a second campaign is starting up now. But Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone didn't take part in the first round and aren't taking part in the second round either.

"This is a huge risk to polio eradication," says World Health Organization spokeswoman Sona Bari. "They're unprotected from any potential importation of polio." And they're [missing other childhood vaccinations](#) as well.

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative is not planning any more immunization campaigns through the end of the year. "One can't argue with that," says Bari. "Countries need to be able to muster whatever health services they have in order to respond to the Ebola outbreak."

It Turns Out That Fighting Polio is Good Training to Fight Ebola (Cont)

But there's that "one plane flight away" problem that is critical for both Ebola and polio. If someone carrying the polio virus wanders into one of those West African countries, an epidemic could spark.

And cases of polio could very well go unnoticed. Some of the most educated health care workers in the Ebola-affected countries have died; those who remain are busy with Ebola.

There's already a sign that fewer health officials are looking for polio. The explanation is a little convoluted, so hang on. Sudden paralysis in children is a hallmark of the polio virus but also other can be caused by infectious organisms, congenital problems, exposure to toxic chemicals and more. Health officials at the World Health Organization look for a sudden paralysis rate in children under 15 in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Guinea of 2 in 100,000. But reports are down in those countries, says Bari, suggesting that there's not much polio surveillance.



Missing a single case could send polio numbers ballooning. "If we take our eye off the ball we're up to 200,000 cases a year in the next ten years," says Carol Pandak, global director of [Rotary International's Polio Plus Program](#).

Related NPR Stories

[The Comeback Of Polio Is A Public Health Emergency](#) May 5, 2014

Rotary, a coalition of volunteer groups around the world focused on public service projects, has been fighting polio for 35 years. Pandak says they're not backing down now. The organization is continuing to support vaccination campaigns. "We've done nothing differently," she says. And they're working to expand their polio work. Rotary International is just beginning to get proposals from the three Ebola-affected countries for information campaigns for health workers, to piggyback on Ebola training.

Pandak remains optimistic. Nigeria, which has been the source of polio cases throughout Africa, has been polio-free since July. "Africa has never been closer to stopping polio than today," she says. Rotarians in Maine have been planning a trip to Nigeria in a few weeks to work on the polio vaccination campaign, and they have no plans to cancel because of Ebola.

Brazil Bound for International Convention

Be sure to register for the spring-time Rotary International Convention to be held in São Paulo from June 6 to June 9! The website link is: <http://www.riconvention.org>

All you need to do is create a My Rotary account at www.rotary.org/myrotary, if you haven't already done so, and make a note of your password.

Now you're ready to:

- Register for the RI Convention in São Paulo
- Book rooms in your hotel of choice through onPeak, RI's official housing agency.
- Purchase tickets for Host Events organized by the São Paulo Host Organization Committee.

