

Rotarians in Action



Rotary District 5630

2023-24 · Edition 1 · Fall 2023

District Governor's Message

Club Visits



One of the side benefits of making club visits is that I get to see some Nebraska sights I wouldn't have known about otherwise. At my recent **Valentine** club visit, for instance, I discovered the beginning of the Cowboy Trail, which goes east for 200 miles to Norfolk, and

the Bryan Bridge, built in 1932 and named the "Most Beautiful Steel Bridge" that year, out of bridges costing less than \$250,000.

In **Gothenburg** I visited the Pony Express Station, located in their beautiful Ehman Park Arboretum. I still have several club visits to make, so if you have areas of interest in your town, let me know. I'd love to make more discoveries!



Club Goals

A lot of our clubs still have not entered their goals at [Rotary.org](https://www.rotary.org). I'm encouraging all club presidents to do that by the end of September. Just sign in to [Club Central at Rotary.org](https://www.rotary.org). Click on "Goal Center" on the left to view your goals or on "Resources" to learn how to enter them.

Attracting and Engaging Members

As many of you know, if our district does not meet the minimum size of 1100 members by July 1, 2024, we will have to be absorbed by one or more other districts. If clubs work together—sharing ideas, supporting each

other—we can make it through this critical time better than ever before!

As our new District Membership Chair, **Aaron Colwell of Gothenburg** welcomes your input. Add your passion for membership growth to his enthusiasm, bounce ideas off each other. If something has been working for your club, Aaron would like to hear about it so he can share it with the other clubs. See his appeal on page 7 of this newsletter.

Also consider what you can do to keep your members engaged. Are there some who don't participate outside your meetings? Some who don't even attend meetings? Talk to them: Find out their interests, their passions. Do your members know and value both the global and local impact of Rotary? Read about North Platte's "Blue Badge" program [page 8] which they use to educate their new members about all things Rotary.

Simplify Your Foundation Giving

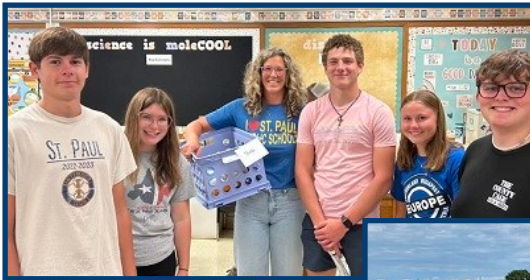
Rotary Direct is the simplest way you can give to the Rotary Foundation. And we have an incentive for you! With every *five* new Rotary Direct signups, your club will be eligible to receive a Paul Harris Fellow you can give to a deserving community leader. Call PDG *Dale Schultz* at 402-460-1137 or email him at dg.2018@5630mail.org for more details.

And – for just \$2.80 per day, or \$85 per month, you'll become a member of the **Paul Harris Society** – Rotary members and friends of Rotary who commit to giving \$1,000 per year to the Annual Fund, PolioPlus Fund, or approved global grants.

It's the Rotary Thing to Do!

District Governor Glenn Knuth
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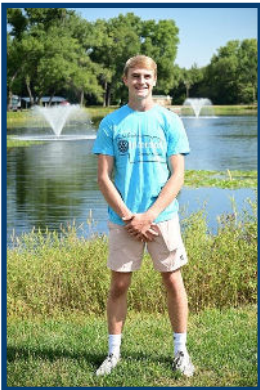
St. Paul Interactors at the Back to School Open House. Teachers sent in their wish lists and the club purchased and delivered the items. They also raised \$275 with their June car wash.



Ogallala Rotarians, Rotaractors and Interactors filled 100 school supply packages. Supplies were donated by local businesses and community members



Arnold Interactor Makes a Difference



The Arnold Recreation Area's new fountains are running, and it only took one 16-year-old Interact member ten months of hard work to get it done.

"I am so incredibly proud of him. It was a lot of hard work and all I could do was encourage him," said Heather Furne, Ethan's mom.

Arnold High School junior **Ethan Furne** envisioned this day almost a year ago with he joined the **Central Nebraska Interact**

Club. At the very first introductory meeting where it was announced that Interact will be a "service above self" club, Ethan knew what he wanted to do for one of their first projects.

"I want to get fountains for the Arnold Rec Area so we can start fishing and swimming there again. The algae is so thick it is really hard to fish," he explained to the sponsor.

What Ethan might not have known is how much it would cost. He did his research and found out what he needed to get this project off the ground.

Ethan knew he had to talk to some adults, especially the village, who owns the pond. However, he also talked to a local agronomist, a chemical engineer, and Nebraska Game and Parks to ensure that any algaecide chemicals used would only kill the algae and would not kill the fish that are already there.

Then he began researching the types of fountains that would be beautiful as well as functional. The fountains would aerate the pond, making it hard for the algae to grow.

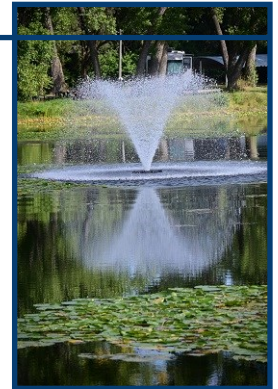
Once he knew the types of fountains and chemicals needed, he knew how much money he needed to raise. He wrote four grants, and managed to get them all.

The Rotary club made the first investment of \$500 in the project so the chemicals could be bought and put on hold while waiting for the grants to come through.

With a total budget of over \$18,000, Ethan knew he would need to apply for many grants because as a service organization, the Interact Club did not have the money in its coffers to fund it. The grants included the Mid Nebraska Community Foundation (\$1,750), the Arnold Community Foundation (\$6,000), the Custer County Foundation (\$5,000), and Custer County Tourism (\$5,000). The Village of Arnold paid for the electrical hookups and electricity to keep the fountains running, and there were several other local donations as well.

Doug DeLaune, Arnold's Zoning Administrator, was instrumental in helping Ethan assemble the fountains, getting them set out in the pond, and installing the electrical hookups. It couldn't have been done without him.

Teenagers, as well as adults, need to realize that teens can have a powerful voice. They can be empowered to do great things if they just talk to the right people. Having a network of people who can direct them leads to successes just like this one.



Nicole Badgley

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