Upcoming Programs/Events:

Nov. 4: Deb Wohlers/Exec. Director/Adair County SB-40 Developmental Disability Board; Nov. 11: Kevin Powell/Conservation; Nov. 18: Dr. Ted Wendell/Medical Mission to Nepal; Nov. 24: Joint Service Club Luncheon; Nov. 25: NO MEETING; Dec. 2: Corey Eagan/IRS Scam re tax returns; Feb. 27: Foundation Dinner/KC; Apr. 30: Shoes for Orphan Souls, St. Joseph
District Governor Ralph Cupelli: “This is the 100th anniversary of Rotary establishing the District Governor position. Arch Klumph was asked in 1915 to lead a committee to draft a constitution and bylaws for the International Association of Rotary Clubs. They recommended the international association be divided into 10 geographic units to be called Districts headed by a District Governor. They determined the purpose of a Rotary District was to further the objectives of the Association, to organize new clubs, and to promote the interests of existing clubs under the supervision of the International Association’s board. This is pretty much what the District still does after 100 years. I am the 100th District Governor in our area. A.E. Hutchings from the Kansas City Club 13 was our first District Governor in 1915-16 in what was then District 11 that encompassed four states. Today there are over 540 Rotary Districts.

Our club has had seven District Governors prior to me, the first being Clarence Baxter, 1931-32, over District 14. He was followed by Randolph Davis in 1954-55 of District 196. Ruby Green was District Governor in 1969-70, Ray Klinginsmith, 1975-76, and Frank Baldwin in 1979-80 in then District 605. Matt Eichor was the last District Governor of 6050 in 1998-99. He was followed by Jeff Romine 2010-11 in our current District 6040 which is one of three complete districts in Missouri. We also have District 6110 that has the SW corner of Missouri as well as parts of Kansas, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

My goal as a District Governor, and the District Leadership team, is to help and support our 57 clubs scattered from the Kansas border to the Illinois border.

Membership is one area of concern for Rotary. Rotary membership has been pretty stagnant the last 10 years at about 1,200,000 members. North America has lost over 10% of its members over this time. Our club had 107 members on July 1, 2012, and today we are at 94 members, a loss of 12% in three years. We are the third largest club in the District with Kansas City 13 the largest with 252 members, then Lee’s Summit with 184 and Independence, with 92, just behind us in size. We have eleven clubs in the District with 20 members or less and we are focusing our energies on helping these smaller clubs. District wise, we are the best district in our zone for membership. On July 1, 2014, there were 56 clubs and a total of 2412 members in the District. On July 1 we had 57 clubs with 2469 members (11 less than the District had on July 1, 2013). However, 52 of this 57 member gain occurred through a new model club in Waldo-Brookside. The District is up 11 members so far this year.

Most of our growth in the District has been to establish new model clubs. Retention of new members is another key. We retained from 86-93% of our members during the last four complete years.

This year has been a positive year from Rotary member growth worldwide to include the United States. To give you an idea, on July 1, 2014, Rotary had 34,773 clubs with 1,188,539 members. As of September 30, 2015, Rotary gained 361 clubs with 14,770 members the first three months of this Rotary year.

One thing we are trying to do is recruit more women and younger Rotarians. We need to change the image that Rotary is an old white man’s organization. Jennifer’s slides at the District Conference showed districtwide we have 27% women. I have only come across two clubs in the District with more women than men. Of those who have age data on members (64%), 76% of the District is over 50 while 78% of our club is over 50. How will this impact your club’s future and what you can accomplish? What can you do to attract more younger and diverse members?

Our District contributed $280,725 to the Annual Fund of the Rotary Foundation. This was $9,355 over our goal and, for the first time in the history of the District, we achieved more than $100 per member - $116.39 to be exact. This year we have raised $38,538 so far. Our club contributed $12,352 to the Annual Fund that averaged $122 per member. A STAR CLUB! We have many generous Rotarians in our District. Our club has 51 Paul Harris Society members, 66 benefactors and 1,186 Paul Harris Fellows - 93% of our club has contributed to these two funds. (cont’d on Page 3)
Our District was the leader in our zone in contributing to the Polio Plus fund, contributing $187,410! Our club contributed $2,276 to Polio Plus last year. We are behind this year in raising Polio Plus funds, collecting $11,223 to date. I hope that you will contribute this year as we are so close to eradicating polio. Nigeria has gone for over a year with no new cases. So far this year there have been 51 new cases of polio, compared to 242 at this time last year. Pakistan dropped from 205 cases last year to 38 this year, and Afghanistan had 13 cases, one more than last year at this time. Afghanistan is the final endemic country to get the inactivated polio vaccine.

Your contributions to the annual fund come back to the District in three years. We have just over $100,000 in District designated funds to support District initiatives. We just gave $39,600 for District Simplified Grants at the District Conference on October 17. We also have $10,000 for District Study Abroad scholarships, four at $2,500 each. The remainder, $50,000, will be used to support global grants. We did our first two global grant scholarships this year.

We have a number of opportunities to learn more about Rotary and to help you be a better Rotarian and Rotary leader. One was District Mega Training in Chillicothe in August. It doesn’t come again until August, 2016.

We have our next session of the Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) in Chillicothe, Saturday, November 7. RLI consists of three sessions. It is an excellent opportunity to learn about Rotary and prepare you for additional leadership in your club. We will have all three sessions. I am teaching a lesson on the Foundation.”

DG Ralph went on to speak about the October 16-17 District Conference here in Kirksville with the theme “Celebrating the Gift of Rotary” which 46 of our members attended. It was a fun and educational experience full of Rotary fellowship. Ron Gaber (right in photo taken today) was chosen as our Club Champion on Saturday, October 17. The speakers throughout were outstanding. There has been a lot of positive feedback.

Since the District Conference was in late October, the Foundation Dinner has been moved to Saturday, February 27, 2016 at the Embassy Suites near the Kansas City International Airport. Social time starts at 5 p.m. with dinner and the program to follow. We will celebrate Rotary’s 111th birthday, too.

Our last major event this year will be the District Assembly on Saturday, April 30, 2016. We will also do the Shoes for Orphan Souls countdown at that time. The event will be held in the St. Joe area.

President Ravi Ravendran’s theme this year is BE A GIFT TO THE WORLD. What an outstanding theme! We all have gifts to give. We as Rotarians already give our talents, our knowledge, our abilities and our efforts. We are dedicated and devoted to our Rotary Projects. Rotary allows us to take our gifts and make a genuine difference in the lives of others around us and around the world.

**50-50 DRAWING:** Craig Shorten did not pull the ace of spades; pot stands at $137.00.