KROMBOOM ROTARY CLUB NEWS: Debi Boughton reported that the dictionary project of our twin club in South Africa is now self-supporting. An additional 3,000 dictionaries have been ordered and, to date, 110,000 dictionaries have been distributed! She continues to accept donations for the club’s computer center project.

DISTRICT GOVERNOR RALPH: DG Ralph said he has now visited all 57 clubs in District 6040. He encouraged us to sign up for the Foundation Dinner in Kansas City on February 27th if we wish to attend.

SHOES FOR ORPHAN SOULS: Chair David Nichols (pictured) provided the history of this worthwhile charitable effort. It began as a project of KCBI Radio in Dallas, TX entitled “Shoes for Russian Souls” then, in 1999, when Buckner International assumed leadership, the name was changed to reflect global reach. (Buckner’s history began when Dr. Robert Cook Buckner founded Buckner Orphanage after the Civil War.) Since 1999, Buckner has distributed over three million shoes and socks in 81 different countries! There are now 100 humanitarian organizations involved in this effort, including Rotary. DG Larry Lunsford introduced Rotary to the project in 2001 and since then 270,528 shoes, along with socks, laces and cash, have been collected in District 6040. In 2015, 17,798 shoes were collected. Our club contributed 629 to the effort last year. David has been working closely with Becky Johnson at Walmart and she expects to have a $250 shipment for us this week. He has $175 in a fund to date and will purchase the shoes on its own and be reimbursed when donations are received. David said the truck will be loaded on April 30th. Although no donations were sought today, tax deductible contributions can be made at any time to the Kirksville Rotary Charitable Fund with Shoes for Orphan Souls in the memo line.

PRESIDENT EMMA HALL, ATSU ROTARACT: Emma presented a $1,000 check from her club to Rotary Park Committee Chair Ron Gaber today raised through its Plastic Pumpkin Klassic (disk golf) activity. The money will benefit the Carl R. Baldwin Memorial Bridge for which $12,000 has already been raised. Pictured from left are Ron Gaber, Emma Hall and Melissa Stuart, ATSU Rotaract advisor. After David’s presentation, Emma spoke about ATSU Rotaract and shared photos of various fundraising and community support efforts (leaf raking project). In addition to the Pumpkin Klassic, funds were also raised for End Polio Now and Shoes for Orphan Souls, an activity it will support this year as well. Emma said ATSU Rotaract, the first in existence in a medical school, has 52 members within ATSU’s medical, dental and master’s degree programs.

50-50 Drawing: Dana Delaware did not pull the ace of spades; pot now up to $287.

Upcoming Programs/Events:
Feb. 10: Katie Fine-Newman/Sheltered Workshop
Feb. 17: Ashley Young/Downtown Improvement Project
Feb. 24: Wes Buck/Car Enthusiast Magazine
Feb. 27: Foundation Dinner/KC
Feb. 29-Mar. 4: Literacy Readings
March 2: Judge Otten/Cuba Trips
March 19: Taste of the World/Newman Center
March 30: R. Green/F. Baldwin Free Enterprise Award

Guests:
Brock Hamilton (guest of Hector Contreras)
Yohei Norimatsu (guest of Melissa Stuart)
Emma Hall (ATSU Rotaract)

Make Up Meetings at 1000 Hills club - NE Regional Medical Center cafe (Thursdays at 7 a.m.) or North Star club - Wooden Nickel (Tuesdays at 5:15 p.m.)