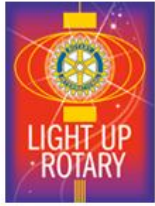


# THE ROTATOR

WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF COUNCIL BLUFFS

CLUB 1506 (153)/DISTRICT 5650 CHARTERED APRIL 1, 1915 VOLUME 46

## Rotary International Theme 2014-2015



### 2014-2015 Officers

President – Steve Chamley  
Past Pres. – Jill Orton  
& Membership  
Pres. Elect – Rick Guill  
& Sgt. at Arms  
RI Fndn. – Mick McKinley  
Treasurer – Paul Hamilton  
Secretary – Donna Pritchard

### Board Members

Susan Enewold 15  
Chris Olson 15  
Wendy Schultz 15  
Scott Hartman 16  
Stacy Schultz 16  
Jay Simms 16  
Tom Hanafan 17  
Kathy Rieger 17  
Verne Welch 17

### Executive Director

Wendy Chubick

## Thursday, June 4, 2015, 12 PM

Andy Biller, Exec. Dir. Council Bluffs Airport  
The Center, 714 S. Main St., Council Bluffs

### JUNE MEETINGS/EVENTS - Rotary Fellowships Month

- 04 Andy Biller, Exec. Dir. Council Bluffs Airport
- 11 Dan Owens, Omaha Airport Authority Improvements
- 17 Board Meeting, 12 pm, US Bank, 421 S. Broadway, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor
- 18 Paul Ross, Director Transportation Security Administration Nebraska
- 25 NO MEETING - Please attend District event on the 27th.
- 27 Rotary District 5650 Changing of the Guard Family Day  
Mahoney State Park (details under Rotary Events)
- 30 End of Rotary Year

### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 15 Dan Kinney     | 23 Keith Jones     |
| 21 Jason James    | 24 Chris Rochleau  |
| 21 James L. Knott | 29 Donna Pritchard |
| 22 Chris Blum     | 29 Greg Witte      |

June	Song Leader	Clipper	Greeter
04	Carol Wood	TBA - Stan Grote arranging	TBA - Lisa Yilmaz arranging
11	Greg Witte		
18	Marcia Antworth		
25	N/A		

Rotary Club of Council Bluffs  
P.O. Box 673, Council Bluffs, Iowa 51502-0673  
Phone: 712-326-9368  
Email: [cbrotary@cbrotary.omhcoxmail.com](mailto:cbrotary@cbrotary.omhcoxmail.com)  
Website: [www.noonrotaryclub.org](http://www.noonrotaryclub.org)

## MAKE UP OPPORTUNITIES

### MONDAY

North – Noon, Eppley Airport Conference Center  
Bellevue – Noon, DJ's Dugout, 10308 S 23rd St  
Millard – Noon, German American Society, 3717 S 120th St

### TUESDAY

Morning – 7 am, Happy Hollow Club, 1701 S 105th St  
Northwest – Noon, Champions Run, 13800 Eagle Run Dr  
Southwest Night – 5:15 pm, DJ's Dugout, 17666 Welch Plaza

### WEDNESDAY

Downtown – Noon, Field Club, 3615 Woolworth Ave  
Council Bluffs Centennial – 7 am, Hy-Vee, Madison Ave

### THURSDAY

Suburban – Noon, Anthony's, 7220 F St  
Western Douglas County – 7 am, Elkhorn Common Ground  
Community Center, 1701 Veterans Dr

### FRIDAY

West – Noon, Champions Run, 13800 Eagle Run Dr

E-Club Meeting Links:

[www.rotaryclub7210.org](http://www.rotaryclub7210.org)  
[www.rotaryclubone.org](http://www.rotaryclubone.org)  
[www.rotaryclubny1.com](http://www.rotaryclubny1.com)  
[www.rotaryclub7890.org](http://www.rotaryclub7890.org)  
[www.rotaryclubsouthwest.org](http://www.rotaryclubsouthwest.org)  
[www.rotaryclub34.org](http://www.rotaryclub34.org)

Rotary Links:

Rotary International Website: [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)  
District 5650 Website: [www.rotarydistrict5650.org](http://www.rotarydistrict5650.org)  
District Facebook: [www.facebook.com/rotarydistrict5650](https://www.facebook.com/rotarydistrict5650)

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### **Rotary Events**

Rotary District 5650 Changing of the Guard Family Day at Mahoney State Park, Sat., June 27, 11 am-8 pm. \$35 for Rotarians, \$25 for guests, Free for children 12 and under. Price includes park entrance and meal. Sign up at [www.rotarydistrict5650.org](http://www.rotarydistrict5650.org).

SAVE THE DATE - Changing of the Guard Steak Fry at the home of Jason James - Thur., July 16.

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### **Announcements**

The 100 Year Project - Return to Fairmount Park Donor Commitment form is attached.

"Celebrating 100 Years" Oxford shirts are available for sizing and ordering. \$26.75 S, M, L, XL/\$28.89 XXL & Larger. Available in light blue and white. Contact Ric Miller 712-328-1930/[ric.miller@cwiova.org](mailto:ric.miller@cwiova.org).

Thank you to Celebrate Catering for providing our weekly meals. Please contact Stacy to cater your event. Call 712-322-2580 or visit [www.celebratecatering4u.com](http://www.celebratecatering4u.com).

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## **Rotary Foundation Council Bluffs 2015 Scholarship Recipients Each is awarded \$1,500 to attend IWCC**

Sarah Chaves  
1st year career student  
Major: Culinary Arts  
Graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School

Tyler Hopping  
1st year transfer student  
Major: General Studies  
Graduate of St. Albert High School

Coral Shaw  
2nd year transfer student  
Major: Human Services  
Graduate of Lewis Central High School

Kyle Smith  
2nd year career student  
Major: Graphics Communications  
Graduate of Lewis Central High School

Sarah Chavez's thank you letter is attached.

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### **May 28 Program Vocational Talks Verne Welch and Lynne Branigan**

**Verne Welch** - Verne was born in 1937 in Council Bluffs at the old Mercy Hospital.

He was raised in the west end across the street from future Mayor, Tom Hanafan. Tom's mother was their Boy Scouts den mother and looked after all the kids in the area.

Verne's parents owned Rite Way Cleaners on about 24th & Broadway. His mother ran it with his brother. His dad worked for UPRR for 46 years and did some traveling with them.

Verne's brother was drafted into World War II in January 1946. He served in the Army and got out in May 1946 as a Captain in the Medical Corps. His dad was in the Army Corps of Engineers in World War I. Both served in France.

Verne graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School in May and in June he received his draft notice. Both his dad and brother said, "You do not want to go into the Army." They said the Air Force would be a good service. There were seven of us with draft notices and we all went together to Fort Omaha to the recruiting office to get into the Air Force. Only a Navy Chief was there and they were running out of time so he said he would take care of them. Six of them went into the Navy and trained at Great Lakes, IL. All served complete tours. The seventh went into the Army and only served 18 months.

Verne served in Vietnam and in the Middle East during the 6 Day War in June 1967.

Verne was trained in Naval Intelligence starting with Beach Intelligence School, then Cold Weather Indoctrination. He was worried about being sent to Antarctica but ended up at the North Pole. He did 165 beach studies as the government was worried about Russia attacking the US via Alaska and there was no intelligence on the approaches to the various areas. They went from Wiley Post in Alaska to the Bay of McKenzie in Canada.

Overall Verne spent 10 years overseas. He had orders to return to Vietnam and decided to terminate his service.

When he returned to the U.S. Verne opened a company called Overseas Services. They subcontracted to government contractors, primarily providing administrative backstopping. They processed personnel for the contractors and then sent them overseas. Verne sold his share of the business in 1972 and moved to Nevada to avoid personal income taxes. In Nevada, he went to work for Harrah's Casino in Reno. He started in the cash handling department and got several promotions while there. He moved to Lake Tahoe in 1976 and opened the second tower of the Harrah's Hotel. After Bill Harrah passed away, he moved around with the company as they started to look for additional properties.

Harrah's was the first casino to go public on the New York Stock Exchange in 1967 or 68. Harrah's only had two casinos then, Reno and Lake Tahoe. Verne went to Las Vegas and they purchased the old Riverboat Casino across the street from Caesars. They'd never been in Vegas before because Bill Harrah never wanted to go there, it was a union town. In 1980 Holiday Inn purchased all of Harrah's and they started a new chapter.

The next stop was Atlantic City where they eventually opened two casinos. Harrah's and a partnership with Donald Trump for the Harrah's Trump Plaza. That did not last long and Harrah's sold their share back to The Donald.

While at Harrah's Lake Tahoe they became the only hotel/casino to be awarded the 5 Star and 5 Diamond award. They received it in 1977 and lost it in 1987 - the same year the GM and Assist GM (Verne) left.

While with Harrah's it was decided that many of them needed to complete their formal education and they enrolled a group in the Holiday Inn University at Olive Branch, Mississippi. That was an experience one will never forget. They did a semester a week from 7 am to 7 pm, 7 days a week, over the course of three years. Moving back to the facilities and working and then back to school. Their final title was Organizational Development specialists. No one wanted to add OD after their name, sounded like they passed on due to a drug overdose.

Verne left Harrah's in August 1987 and opened a Chinese Restaurant. He had it for 3 years and sold it, not a good decision to be in the food business. In November 1987 he went to work for Harvey's and later became the GM. From there, after taking the company public, they started their expansion. They opened the Hard Rock Casino/Hotel in Las Vegas, then the Harvey's Wagon Wheel in Central City,

Colorado. Then, Verne finally stayed in CB and opened the Harvey's Hotel Convention Center and Riverboat Casino. Eventually they purchased the Bluffs Run Casino and Greyhound Track.

Harvey's opened for business on January 1, 1996 and was very successful. In 1999 they sold their shares in the very successful Hard Rock and had a lot of cash in the bank. Along came Colony Capital, an investment company, and they purchased their public stock for \$450 million. In August 2001 they were sold to Harrah's. At that time Verne said he was going to retire. Harrah's agreed and then asked if he would stay as a consultant to help the new GM. That temporary position lasted until November 2014 when Caesars filed for bankruptcy.

After all of the life experiences Verne has had, one of his greatest honors was being inducted into the Thomas Jefferson High School Hall of Fame in 2000.

Sometime in the late 90s, Verne's friend Carl Heinrich asked him if he would be interested in joining Rotary and he said yes. It was the best decision he's made and he still enjoys the weekly get-togethers.

**Lynne Branigan's summary was not available. It will be posted in a later newsletter.**

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