

## Rotary Club of Wichita

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# Rotary



### NEWS RELEASE

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## New History Book Documents The Wichita Rotary Built

*Celebration and book distributed at February 25 meeting*

Wichita, KS - Admitted to the National Association of Rotary Clubs as the 30th Club in the world on November 18, 1911, the Wichita Rotary Club has been a guiding force in Wichita, Kansas for more than a hundred years. Several history books have been produced in the past to celebrate the club's community contributions and the most recent commemorative book has just been released. Copies of the new book were distributed to Rotary Club members at a special celebration at noon on Monday, February 25 at Botanica, The Wichita Gardens.

The 55-page book, titled *This is The Wichita Rotary Built*, was developed by a History Committee made up of Rotarians interested in preserving and promoting some of the Club's most memorable milestones from the last century. Past Wichita Rotary Club President Clark Bastian has worked to organize and catalog more than 24,000 pages and images to preserve the Club's heritage. Book designer and Club Member Bill Gardner said Bastian's passion and perseverance contributed greatly to the quality and depth of the publication.

"Wichita Rotary began like a social arm of the Chamber of Commerce," said Bastian. "But it quickly became a movement of movers and shakers, determined to help Wichita develop economically and culturally. It was a special privilege to combine historical images from Rotary files with the stories about how the Club's dedication to improving Wichita literally changed the dynamics of this community. Our Club was involved in everything from funding the startup of a Boy Scout Council for our city to boosting Wichita's early aviation reputation by sponsoring a 'Wichita Armada' fly-in to Dallas."

In addition to distributing the book at the February 25 meeting, copies will be provided to area libraries. Project Committee members included Clark Bastian, Eric Cale, Bill Gardner, Arlen Honts, Jan Luth, Eric Melgren and writer Bob Hamrick. The book production costs were underwritten by the Club.

*Rotary Club of Wichita is a diverse group of more than 400 professional men and women seeking to improve the lives of others in communities at home and around the world. We build networks and friendships, serving in Wichita and abroad. Follow @RotaryWichitaDT on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.*