



The Cog



A Monthly Publication of the Brookings Rotary Club

NOVEMBER 2021

November Programs

Erich Olson -- Program Coordinator for November

- Nov 2SDSU Raven Precision Ag Lunch and Tour.....
- Nov 9.....The Rotary Foundation Presentation.....
- Nov 16.....Heidi Gullickson.....Plans for New Food Pantry Facility
- Nov 23.....Chad Adamson.....Mickelson Middle School Counselor
- Nov 30.....Club Assembly.....

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Deb DeBates
- 5 Dean Kattelman
- 9 Van Fishback
- 29 Don Norton

November Sergeant at Arms will be recently retired Jackie Lanning.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR NOVEMBER

World-Changing Information – There are Two

It was great to see so many Brookings Rotary Club members at the District Conference in Deadwood October 14-16! There were wonderful learning sessions, plenty of fellowship, and it was inspiring to hear of all the work our clubs are doing in our communities – including here in Brookings.

But there was one incredible piece of information that was news to me, and others present at the conference – there are **two cases** of the wild polio virus remaining in the world.

Over the years, Brookings Rotarians have heard the constant plea to make a financial contribution to PolioPlus. Our club has faithfully answered the call. When Rotary and its partners formed the Global Polio Eradication Initiative in 1988, there were 350,000 cases of polio in 125 countries every year. Now there are two this year – one each in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Rotary members have contributed more than \$2.1 billion and countless volunteer hours to protect more than 2.5 billion children. While we're not claiming victory, clearly victory is in sight.

(continued on next page)



Harmony Park



The Brookings Rotary Club, the Brookings Public Arts Commission, the City of Brookings and the Brookings Arts Council officially opened “Harmony Park,” a percussive musical playground located at Larson Park, last month. The park is a group of musical sculptures that are interactive when used. The colorful sculptures are all tuned to each other and include a xylophone and bongo drums, created to look like flowers and a mushroom, decorated in a colorful manner.

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- Reva & Jerome Johnson Nov 8
- Andrew & Sharlay Sloss Nov 10
- Craig & Dee Johnson Nov 14



To provide content for the COG please contact
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November Service Anniversaries

| | | | |
|------------------------|--------|--------------------------|--------|
| 11-02-71 Alan Rogers | 50 yrs | 11-21-06 Dr. Dan Carlson | 15 yrs |
| 11-01-82 Wes Tschetter | 39 yrs | 11-24-09 Rich Widman | 12 yrs |
| 11-16-96 Dan Little | 25 yrs | 11-18-14 Jane Hennings | 7 yrs |
| 11-19-02 James Johnson | 19 yrs | 11-12-19 Rebecca Herman | 2 yrs |
| 11-11-03 Stephen Pohl | 18 yrs | | |



BROOKINGS ROTARY OBSERVES WORLD POLIO DAY WITH GUEST SPEAKER:

Local author, teacher Mark Sternhagen relates personal experiences as survivor of virus

Mark Sternhagen, of Brookings, was uniquely qualified to discuss his personal experiences with members of the Brookings Rotary Club as the speaker for the club's Oct. 26 meeting, which focused on World Polio Day which is observed Oct. 24. Sternhagen contracted the disease in 1957 when he was just a baby.

The Salk vaccine that prevents polio was approved in 1955. "In December 1956, when the vaccine was being administered in my hometown of Scotland, South Dakota, I had a fever, so I wasn't vaccinated," Sternhagen told Rotarians via Zoom. "I got polio the following August, when I was 18 months old."

After many years of wearing a leg brace and using crutches, Sternhagen now navigates with the use of a wheelchair. An active spokesperson for those with disabilities, he serves as an advocate for fellow members of the Brookings Committee for People Who Have Disabilities, and is a board member for LifeScape in Sioux Falls – an organization from which he used to receive services as a youngster. He is the author of two books, and holds several college degrees, including a master's from SDSU in Industrial Management.

Mr. Sternhagen was recognized as South Dakota's Outstanding Individual with a Disability for 2021.



The first District Governor Award for Rotarian of the Quarter is presented to Kay Norton. She is a Rotarian who has gone above and beyond and has proven to be extraordinary in her service above self. This is a new award that will serve to honor one individual each quarter who has exhibited these attributes.

Kay has been a Rotarian since 1990, first joining the Macomb (IL) Rotary Club. She is Public Image Chair for Brookings Rotary and is the District 5610 Trainer and Interim District Public Image Chair.

(President's message continued)

We're not giving up. Rotary is pledging \$50 million each year to continue to vaccinate children around the world – funds that are matched with \$100 million from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

November is Rotary Foundation Month. Again, we'll be asked to give our time and financial resources to The Rotary Foundation (TRF). This five-star rated foundation with outstanding financial oversight transforms lives close to home and around the world. The Rotary Club of Brookings has been the recipient of several District Grants over the years – funds that are returned to local clubs after we donate them to TRF. When you hear the talk this year about making a contribution, please remember – we are changing lives through our donations to Rotary, and PolioPlus is the example of our efforts. Yours in Rotary, Don

The following Rotarians had perfect attendance in October

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Yvette Campbell | Don Norton |
| Steve Carnes | Kay Norton |
| Jim Gilkerson | Erich Olson |
| Del Johnson | Della Tschetter |
| Gregg Jongeling | Chad Vilhauer |

November Meal Schedule

Nov 2 Aramark at SDSU Raven Bldg.

Nov 9 through Nov 30

Bring your own food. Water and coffee furnished at the Activity Center

Happy Thanksgiving

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY FOR ROTARIANS IN DECEMBER

Service opportunity for Rotarians is listed below:

We are ringing the bells for the Salvation Army! Rotarians will ring the bells outside **Walmart** (Brookings) from 4-8 PM on **Tuesday December 14th**. If you can help with this project, please sign up for the shift(s) you would like to help with at a Rotary meeting or you can also email me (Michael.Gonda@sdstate.edu) and I can add you to the timeslots you request, if still available. Each shift will be a minimum of one hour, but feel free to sign up for multiple shifts if you are available!

All the best, Michael Gonda



Members of the Brookings Kiwanis, Lions, Optimists and Rotary clubs pause for a group picture after joining forces Monday morning to unload the Century 21 Krogman & Co. truck that was “stuffed” last week with donations of food and other necessary items. The combined efforts of the clubs, along with generous donations from the community, resulted in hundreds of pounds of non-perishable food delivered to the Brookings Food Pantry. Cleaning supplies were taken to the Salvation Army, and baby care needs like diapers and wipes were delivered to the Harvest Table Program at First United Methodist Church. Community Life Center Mgr. Vonda Kirkham exclaimed, “This is just like Christmas!” Members of the four service organizations agreed the project was a success, and future collaborative community service efforts would be planned.



STUFFING THE TRUCK TO “CELEBRATE COMMUNITY”

A few members of the Brookings Rotary Club stopped by the Century 21 truck parked in front of the Brookings Radio studios on 22nd Avenue to drop off their donations of non-perishable food items, baby care needs and cleaning supplies for community members in need. The contributions are part of the “Celebrate Community” event co-sponsored by the Brookings Optimists, Brookings Lions, Brookings Rotary and Brookings Kiwanis. Pictured from left are Jackie Lanning, Keith Bartels, Della Tschetter, Jim Gilkerson, Don Norton and Rich Widman.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER JESSICA MURANO

Jessica Murano is not new to Rotary. She began her journey in 2006 shortly after graduating from the University of South Dakota. That is when Ted Munster approached her and asked her if she wanted to see the world and do some good. She soon found herself part of the GSE Team headed to South Korea that same year. That experience changed Jess's life and so began her Rotary career.

Jess began her Rotary career in Sioux Falls under the mentorship of Bert Olson, and is a founding member of Sioux Falls Rotary-South where she served as their membership chair from 2009-2010. When her husband took a job with the USD School of Medicine, she found herself a member of the Vermillion Rotary Club, where she served as the Social Chair from 2012-2013. The following year, Jess was asked to serve as the District 5610 Membership Chair, and did. During this time, her family had moved west to Rapid City and she began her next journey at Rushmore Rotary. Finally, in 2019, Jess, her husband (Doug), and their 4 children (Rocco, Eva, Luca, and Franny) moved back to the East side of the state to be closer to family and decided to settle in Brookings, which was difficult for these two Coyotes....Go Yotes! After having taken a few years to raise kids, Jess is excited to be part of the Brookings Rotary Club.

Currently, Jess is the owner of Firefly Collective, a trauma-informed yoga and pilates studio in Brookings. She specializes in working with kids and adults who have experienced adverse experiences to help them process with the help of yoga and mindfulness practices. She works with the South Dakota Network Against Family Violence and Sexual Assault to provide support to staff and individuals through her trauma-based yoga and mindfulness practices. Jess is working with counselors in the Brookings School District to provide extra support for both classes and kids who need extra attention. Firefly Collective, her business, partners with BCYMP, Avera Behavioral Health, and Boys & Girls Club to bring yoga and mindfulness practices to kids in underserved populations. In January, she will begin her M.S. in Clinical and Mental Health Counseling at SDSU and hopes to treat children and families in South Dakota.

In her free time (what is that?), Jess enjoys spending time with her family, cooking/baking, decorating for Halloween—a favorite holiday in their house, and time outside with nature.

