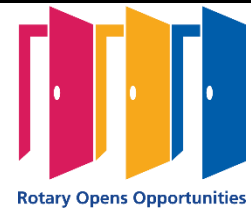




# THE COG



A Monthly Publication of the Brookings Rotary Club

**OCTOBER 2020**

## October Programs

**Kay Norton and Erich Olson -- Program Coordinators for October**

Oct 6. Representative Dusty Johnson.....US Congressman SD  
 Oct 13.. Nikki Eining..... Avera Behavioral Health  
 Oct 20...Mark Sternhagen.....Polio Survivor and Author  
 Oct 27.. Beth Reams & Mark Wilmes..... Lake Benton Opera House



October Sergeant at Arms is perpetual Sergeant at Arms Jongeling.

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

3 Jesse Ronning  
 4 Darrell DeBoer  
 5 Dan Carlson  
 13 Darla Biel  
 18 Kelsey Doom  
 19 James Johnson  
 21 Nicole Rawden  
 22 Della Tschetter  
 23 Jennifer Soma  
 27 Kaleb Hight  
 27 Jennifer Olson  
 30 Don Evenson

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR OCTOBER

### Using Our Energy Wisely

It's so easy to let our current circumstances drain our positive attitudes! That's why I love our weekly Rotary meetings. It builds up positive energy. I've been doing some research into staying positive, and here's what I found:

1. Hold on to an Anchor. For some, your personal anchor may be your faith. For businesses, it may be the vision or mission of the organization. For Rotarians, the anchor includes "Service Above Self." When you're "grounded" in something bigger than you are, it's a little easier to keep the big picture in mind as you move toward a positive future.
  2. Navigate the Negativity. Attitude expert Matt Booth says the number one rule for keeping a positive attitude is to tune out as much negativity as possible. This may mean turning off the evening news and social media and picking up the Rotary magazine to read about the good works Rotarians engage in globally.
  3. Manage Your Energy. This is another tip from Matt. Physical and mental energy management should be thought of like time management. Rest, get some exercise, drink plenty of water, and get involved in a positive activity – like a Rotary service project.
- (continued on back)*

## ZOOM Meeting stats for September 2020

Of Brookings Rotary Club's 102 members, 60 participated in one or more meetings. 21 had perfect attendance! Scholar dollars raised were \$423. Great work Rotarians!



## October Anniversaries

07 Steve & Chris Sewell                      15 Greg & Lora Fargen  
 24 Kaleb & Heather Hight

**OBVIOUSLY NOT A POPULAR MONTH FOR WEDDINGS!!**

To provide content for the COG please contact  
 Gregg Jongeling 605-691-4015  
 gjongeling@gmail.com

### October Service Anniversaries



10-30-79	Del Johnson	41 yrs	10-17-00	Della Tschetter	20 yrs
10-01-87	Larry Janssen	33 yrs	10-30-01	Mildred Juel	19 yrs
10-27-98	Craig Johnson	22 yrs	10-24-14	Kaleb Hight	6 yrs
10-27-98	Peggy Miller	22 yrs	10-04-16	Jennifer Soma	4 yrs
			10-30-18	Steve Sewell	2 yrs

***(President's message continued)***

October started out with a great service project as Rotarians helped gather garments for the Salvation Army "Share the Warmth" coat drive. We'll have others coming up; like decorating at McCrory Gardens and ringing the Salvation Army bell. And the week leading up to October 24<sup>th</sup>, we'll be celebrating World Polio Day with author Mark Sternhagen speaking at our meeting October 20<sup>th</sup>. Rotary's work to eradicate polio is a real "positive" – and one of the noblest projects in history. Let's channel our positive energy and continue to live out our mission of "Service Above Self" right into the holidays! I look forward to seeing you each Tuesday via Zoom, with our pre-meeting social time at 11:45 A.M.

Yours in Rotary, President Don

### **BROOKINGS ROTARIANS INVITED COMMUNITY TO JOIN COAT DRIVE**

The Brookings Rotary Club invited members of the community to join in its Coat Drive to benefit the Brookings Salvation Army. Community members dropped off their donations of new or gently used coats, jackets, snow pants, hats, gloves and winter scarves to the truck in the parking lot at Dacotah Bank, Thursday, October 1.

Donations were needed for all children's and adults' sizes and were taken to the Salvation Army to help in its annual Coat Drive that is currently underway. Rotarians on site Thursday morning included **Michael Gonda, Jennifer and Randy Soma, Don and Kay Norton, Deb DeBates, Darrell DeBoer, David Odens, and Mylo Hellickson** to welcome donors and assist with loading their contributions into the waiting truck provided by **Randy and Jen Soma**.

**If you have coats or winter items to donate contact Michael (605-690-6379) [Michael.Gonda@sdstate.edu](mailto:Michael.Gonda@sdstate.edu) to receive information on how to make additional donations.**

**The following was posted by Kay Norton:**

*I'm so incredibly proud to be a Rotarian and a member of this generous Brookings community. In just three hours this morning, Rotarians collected 200 coats, snow pants, gloves, and hats for the Salvation Army's Share the Warmth project - we STUFFED a big pickup truck's cargo bed and back seat, as well as another car! Thanks to your generosity, many children and adults will stay warm and dry this winter. We appreciated the hospitality of Dacotah Bank staff, (Rotarians **Steve Carnes and Yvette Campbell**) who allowed us to camp out in their parking lot (and even brought us coffee!) and send our thanks to everyone who volunteered and drove over to donate.*



*"Look for the helpers." - Mr. Rogers*

**The following Rotarians had perfect attendance in September**

Keith Bartels	Lisa Hager	Kay Norton
Darla Biel	Nadim Hassoun	Erich Olson
Steve Carnes	Mylo Hellickson	Nicole Rawden
Michael Crinion	Gregg Jongeling	Richard Smith
Don Crowe	Jim Klinker	Jennifer Soma
Darrell DeBoer	Bruce Lushbough	Della Tschetter
Michael Gonda	Don Norton	Chad Vilhauer

**October Meal Schedule (NOT!!!!)**

- Oct 6.....Baked Potato Bar
- Oct 13.....Turkey
- Oct 20.....2 piece Chicken Dinner
- Oct 27.....Chinese

**(I actually miss Hy-Vee's lunches!!!)**



## LOCAL ROTARIAN DAN LITTLE SERVES AS DISTRICT GOVERNOR DURING CHALLENGING TIMES

When Dr. Dan Little of Brookings accepted the position of District Governor Nominee for Rotary District 5610, he was looking forward to the two years of extensive training that would prepare him to lead 40 clubs throughout all of South Dakota and parts of Minnesota, Nebraska and Iowa. That was in 2018.

Fast forward to the first day of his District Governor term, July 1, 2020, and the world looked much different.

“Everything changed in March, when most clubs suspended their meetings for at least a few weeks due to COVID-19. However, now about three quarters of the clubs are back to weekly gatherings, even if they are held virtually. The work of Rotary continues,” said Little.

Rotary International began in 1905 in Chicago, when Paul Harris and three other businessmen started meeting regularly to share ideas and network, “rotating” their meeting locations among their four offices. Now Rotary International membership tops 1.2 million with more than 33,000 clubs in about 200 countries. The organization is divided into 34 zones (Brookings is in Zone 29) and 531 worldwide districts. Each district has a governor, and this year’s governor for District 5610 is from right here in Brookings.

Little, a consulting veterinarian, provides expert opinions in complex scenarios regarding dairy, swine, beef, poultry, equine, small ruminants, practice management, and personal injury. Many of his current forensic investigations relate to alleged feed mixing and contamination concerns. He believes his background as a vet has helped him respond to the current challenges facing Rotary.

“Veterinarians use systematic problem solving to make decisions - possibly followed by another decision!” he said. This type of problem solving has come in handy as he helps guide his District through unprecedented times. “When faced with concerns or obstacles we must pursue the discovery of the root cause before we can effect positive change,” Little continued. “The ‘positive change’ work of Rotary has not stopped in these COVID-19 times. In fact, our mission and goals are more relevant than ever.”

Little notes that the Rotary International theme for 2020-21 is “Rotary Opens Opportunities.” Those opportunities include taking advantage of technology in ways not considered prior to the pandemic. “COVID is forcing us to adapt to the digital age. We have been stretched out of our comfort zone, but like a rubber band, I do not expect that we will ever go back to all of our past behaviors,” said Little. “Zoom and digital tools improve the ability of young professionals to participate in Rotary activities, so one unexpected result might just be membership for those who hadn’t previously been able to attend a more traditional, in-person, lunch meeting.”

Little grew up on a dairy and swine family farm near Faribault in south central Minnesota. He received his B.A. in Biology from Gustavus Adolphus College, his M. S. in Physiology of Reproduction from Texas A&M University and his D. V. M. from the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine before establishing a veterinary practice in southeastern Minnesota in 1984. His practice has focused on a systems management approach to food animal medicine. In addition to providing on-farm services to diagnose and prevent health challenges, he has also provided technical support to companies that desire to develop, market and implement biotech solutions in livestock systems. He has presented at national and international professional conferences and is a published author in scientific journals and industry magazines.

Although Rotary District Governors are charged with the ultimate decision-making and leadership of their districts, Little ultimately sees his role as more of a “facilitator.”

“I view this position as an opportunity to be a team leader, providing the clubs in District 5610 with the Rotary International tools they need to meet their individual club goals,” explained Little. “We have tremendously talented and passionate Rotarians throughout District 5610.”

Although Little has been a Rotarian since 1994, he said he really understood the importance of membership when he joined the Brookings club after moving to Brookings in 2002. “I realized that I was immediately accepted and trusted in a new community of Rotarians.” Little subsequently served as President of the Brookings Club, then as Assistant Governor and ultimately received the required training at the district, zone and international levels to prepare for his year as District Governor.

“It’s a big commitment - one I entered into very seriously - but it’s a tremendous honor. The opportunity to be a leader in an organization where you can contribute locally but have an impact globally is humbling.”

Little remembers the first time he heard a former District Governor challenge members of the Brookings Club to join the Paul Harris Society; the DG explained the global nature of Rotary’s work, but also emphasized that it was important to remember that behind each dollar donated, there was an individual, a real person, who benefitted. Little is proud to be a Paul Harris Fellow and a member of the Paul Harris Society.

Paul Harris Fellows are those who have contributed (or have had donated in their name) at least \$1,000 to the Rotary Foundation, the organization that provides funding for local and global projects supporting Rotary projects involving health, economic development and peace. Last year, the Brookings Rotary Club achieved 100 percent Paul Harris Fellow status. Paul Harris Society members pledge to contribute \$1,000 per year to the Rotary Foundation.

The reach is expansive; in 2018, The Rotary Foundation distributed more than \$86 million to causes that reflect Rotary’s mission, most notably its continued quest to eradicate polio. “As recently as 1988, there were 350,000 cases of polio worldwide. Now, we are down to 72 isolated cases, with pockets of infection in Afghanistan and Pakistan. We’re remarkably close to total eradication,” said Little.

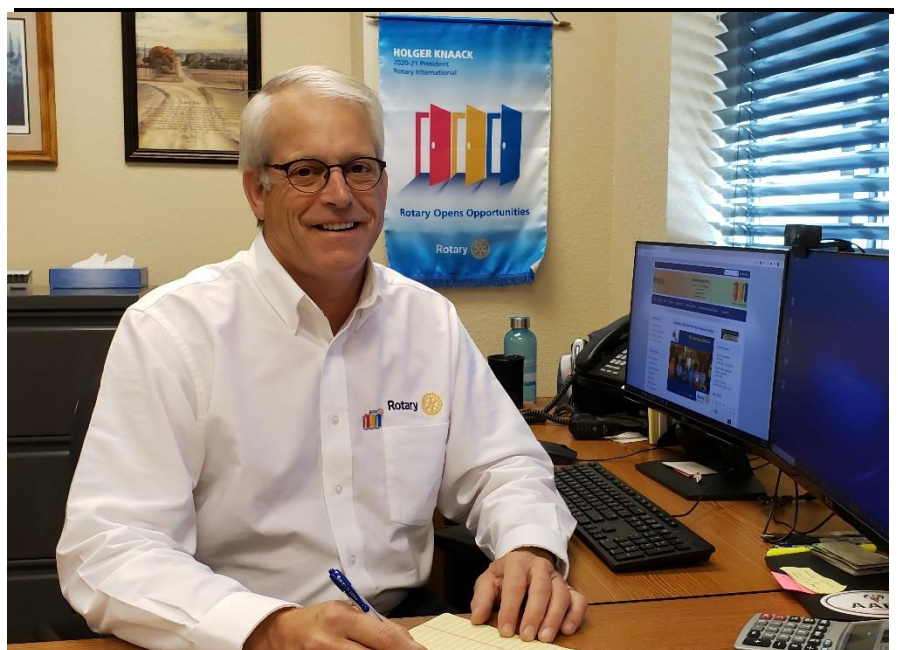
In addition to club members contributing to global causes, Rotarians exemplify their motto of “Service Above Self” by participating in local, club-level projects. Recent projects supported by the Brookings Club, for instance, include a community food drive to benefit the Brookings Food Pantry, collaboration with the Brookings Area United Way to create the Born Learning Trails in two parks for area families to enjoy, the purchase of gift cards for all employees of area assisted living facilities, and the gift to the City of Brookings of a clock that was recently installed in the downtown area to commemorate the club’s 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. As Little visits other clubs in the district (“a requirement of my job but also a great privilege!”), he learns about their projects, similarly organized to improve their communities and address the unique needs of their areas.

“These are the types of projects that attract people of all ages, backgrounds and experiences to Rotary,” said Little. “What does a Rotarian look like? One who cares about others and chooses to invest personal time in making the world a better place for people they may never even meet.”

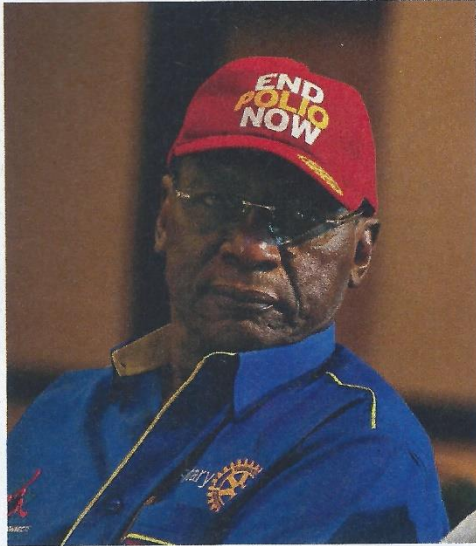
Little is also a private pilot and a member of the International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians. His wife, Pat, is a retired real estate broker and provides business management services for their family businesses. They have six children and nine grandchildren within three hours of their home near Lake Campbell south of Brookings. They enjoy traveling, golfing, hiking, and spending time with family.

## THANK YOU KAY!!!!!!

This article was researched and written by **Kay Norton**. It was published in the Brookings Register on September 15 and is featured on the Rotary District 5610 web page. In this time of COVID we are so appreciative to Kay for taking the initiative to get this story out to the public.







## Tunji Funsho Ending polio

**BY JEFFREY KLUGER**

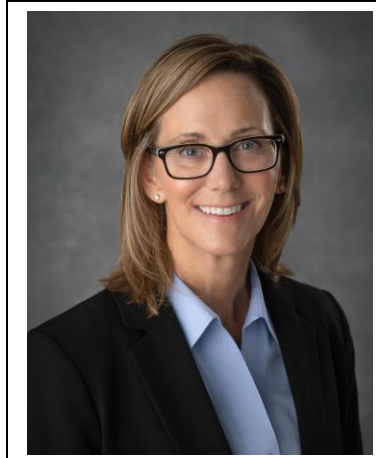
It's not often an entire continent eradicates a disease, but on Aug. 25, 2020, that happened when Nigeria was declared polio-free, clearing the virus from its last redoubt in all of Africa. The person who did more than any other to drive polio to continent-wide extinction was Dr. Tunji Funsho, a former cardiologist and now the chair of Rotary International's polio-eradication program in Nigeria.

Funsho could have retired years ago, but in 2013, with polio still paralyzing children across Nigeria, he decided to step up to lead the Rotarians' effort. Together with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the WHO, the CDC and UNICEF, Funsho and Rotary helped lead National Immunization Days, getting millions of doses of the polio vaccine to children in cities and villages around the nation. They also sponsored health-education initiatives at community centers, mosques and even birthday parties. This summer, the country marked four years without a case of wild polio, qualifying it for its polio-free certification, leaving Afghanistan and Pakistan as the only places in the world in which polio remains endemic.

"Certification will be an achievement," Funsho told TIME in 2018. "But we're not in a hurry for that. We're in a hurry to make sure no child is paralyzed." In Nigeria and in Africa as a whole, that moment has arrived.

*Kluger is a TIME editor at large*

The story on the left was published in the October Time magazine and gave significant credit to ROTARY for its work on POLIO!!!!



### Meet Yvette Campbell Brookings Rotary's Newest Member

My husband, Scott, and I moved to Brookings last month from Brainerd MN where we had lived for the past 31 years. He had been commuting to SD for work since last October and I wasn't super fond of only seeing him on weekends.

We have four adult children and two grandsons. They are a bit spread out - one living in Brooklyn, NY, two in the Minneapolis area and one in Davenport, Iowa.

I spent the last 28 years working for Bremer Bank in the Brainerd area. My favorite part of being a Business Banker is learning about so many different industries and being there when my clients need me most.

I've also spent the last 25+ years as a Kiwanian and also serving in many different ways in my community including the city's Economic Development Authority, our downtown business coalition, Brainerd Youth for Christ, the crisis pregnancy center, my church and others. I am looking forward to finding ways to give back to the community of Brookings that we now call home. Hope to meet you all in person soon.

Best, Yvette Campbell