

## ***John Griscom – Member Spotlight, Training and More Rotary Fun!***

### **ABSENCES – August 4**

There must have been a few, in addition to Martin Woosley

### **MAKEUPS – August 4**

Martin Woosley

### **VISITORS – August 4**

Maybe

### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Ryan Benson, Chase Wright, Logan Johnson

### **PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

August 18	District Governor's Official Visit
August 25	Danny Garrett      Troy Haas – Brownell Travel

### ***News of the Weird***

In Los Angeles on July 7, an unidentified man climbed atop the St. Mary's Catholic Church bell tower and set fire to a cross, then eluded police as he jumped from roof to roof and rappelled down buildings, Fox News reported. The man, who was shirtless and missing one sock, also used wires above the area to climb up buildings. Finally, police caught up with him and he was transferred to a local hospital. [Fox News, 7/8/2021]

The RTE reported on July 7 that three farmers in the Gujarat state of India were arrested for selling alcohol, and their buffalo gave them away. Police official Dilipsinh Baldev said the animals were acting "strangely and their mouths started frothing," so one of the men called the veterinarian. The vet took a look at the water trough where the buffalo had been drinking and noticed the water was colored and had a "strange smell." Turns out the farmers had hidden their moonshine bottles at the bottom of the trough, but some had broken. The buffalo were drunk. The vet informed police, who raided the farm and confiscated 100 bottles of alcohol. [RTE, 7/7/2021]

During the Scottish Open on July 9, a spectator "entered the 10th tee area" and removed a golf club from Rory McIlroy's bag, then took a few swings with it, the Associated Press reported. McIlroy reportedly watched, bemused, before the man was escorted from the course by security officers. Golfers Jon Rahm and Justin Thomas were also on the tee. One witness told The Scotsman newspaper, "The players laughed it off, saying they knew he wasn't a golfer when they saw his grip." [Associated Press, 7/9/2021]

Ailurophobia sufferers, beware! In Tokyo, just in time for the 2021 Olympics, an enormous 3D calico cat is towering over the street, CBS News reported. Every few minutes, the cat appears, seemingly in a box on the side of a building, flicking its tail, meowing and licking its lips. The feline, created by digital marketing firm Cross Space, has gained 17,000 followers on its Twitter account and can be seen in a livestream on YouTube. [CBS News, 7/8/2021]

## ***Rotary Projects Around the Globe***

**Mexico:** In Ciudad Juárez, one woman's work to protect children from street violence has blossomed into Soles de Anapra, a center serving some 80 young people. Since 2014, the Rotary Club of El Paso, Camino Real, Texas, had been donating goods to Lourdes Contreras for the after-school program she ran out of a small house. In 2015, the club decided to find her a bigger, better space. With \$25,000 donated by the 16 clubs in Ciudad Juárez and two partners in New Mexico — the Rotary clubs of Los Alamos and Silver City, frequent contributors and visitors to the center — and \$10,000 raised from a 5K run sponsored by the Eaton Corporation, the club purchased a 6,000-square-foot warehouse in 2016 and went to work. In April, the club completed a refurbishment of the building, carried out even as the pandemic temporarily halted the after-school program.

**South Africa:** When COVID-19 shutdowns heightened hunger in his country, Rex Ifechukwude Omameh turned his family's living room into a sandwich assembly area to prepare food for those in need. Omameh, who is a member of the Rotaract Club of Blouberg and the Rotary Club of Blouberg, and his family members made the effort a Friday tradition. Fellow Rotaractors sometimes help prepare the sandwiches, and most of the food is given to the Milnerton Community Action Network for distribution. Omameh has spent more than \$1,500 on food, and a bread company has also pitched in to provide some of the bread and soup. Omameh also received contributions to defray the project's costs as a birthday present.

**Sri Lanka:** With 11,000 followers on Facebook and nearly 3,000 on Instagram, the Rotaract Club of Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT) collects clicks when it takes on a cause. In September, the 331-member club wrapped up an initiative to use those social media platforms, as well as its YouTube channel, to promote pandemic-stricken businesses in and around Colombo, one of the nation's two capital cities. The Rotaractors produced and posted 10 video interviews with the operators of various enterprises, including bakeries, an event-organizing company, and an auto parts supplier. "Many small business owners faced a lot of downfalls in surviving the crisis," says Sharoni Anthony, a club member. "We hoped to make the public aware of them and their amazing products and services."

**Lower Alabama:** With less than 5 miles of smooth, paved roads, and an almost complete lack of indoor plumbing, Repton, Alabama has long been woefully behind the times. The Rotary Club of Northwest Southern Brewton stepped in during the pandemic to help provide support for the community. Resident volunteers were provided shovels and rakes, and a local pig farmer donated 20 tons of pig manure to spread along the dirt roads. Said one proud resident at the conclusion of the half hour project, "It may not smell too good but boy that road is purty (sic)." A month later, kudzu now completely covers the town leaving no trace of prior conditions.

***No bulletin this week, folks! Have a great week! [Can you spot the fake news?]***