



# Round and Round

Rotary Club of Wichita — Club 30

## Upcoming Programs



**March 7 — Phil Ruffin**  
**Owner & CEO of The Ruffin Companies**  
**Topic: The Phil Ruffin Story**

Phil Ruffin and The Ruffin Companies represent diverse real estate, lodging, manufacturing, energy and retail enterprises, employing more than 5,000 people across the country. Ruffin owns 100 percent of each company and is the sole stockholder.

Born in Texas and raised in Wichita, Kansas, he attended Washburn University in Topeka and continued his education at Wichita State. In 1959, he bought his first convenience store, which quickly grew to 65 stores in four states. He was instrumental in initiating self-service gasoline from its infancy and maintains a significant presence in the Kansas oil industry, owning more than 65 oil wells.

Ruffin's diverse business career has run the gamut from owning a dairy, a bank, and more than 4 million square feet of commercial real estate, which included shopping centers, office buildings and strip centers, to expansive holdings in the hotel and gaming industries. Some of his current properties include 12 hotels in Kansas, Maryland, California, Oklahoma, Texas and Alabama, as well as a 16-acre island named Crystal Cay in Nassau, Bahamas, and 12,000 acres in Belize.

In 1981, Ruffin purchased Harper Trucks, Inc., the world's largest manufacturer of two-wheel hand trucks, which makes one out of every three hand trucks sold in the United States. After acquiring Angeles Manufacturing in California, Ruffin parlayed the new multi-faceted business to supply goods through Harper's 2,500 distributors and directly to the mass market including Walmart, Sears and Home Depot.

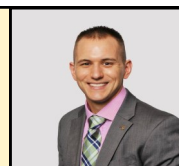
In the gaming arena, Ruffin purchased the Carnival Crystal Palace Hotel in the Bahamas in 1993, converting it to the Wyndham Nassau Resort and Crystal Palace Casino, which he sold in 2005 to the Bahama Development Company. He purchased in 1997 the 80-acre Wichita Greyhound Park in Wichita, Kansas, the Frontenac, Kansas Camptown Greyhound Park in 2000, and the Woodlands Racetrack in Kansas City, Kansas, in 2015. He continues to pursue the reopening of the facilities with the addition of gaming.

Ruffin's ventures expanded to the Las Vegas Strip in 1998 with the purchase of the 41-acre Frontier Hotel and Gambling Hall, which was at the center of the longest labor union strike in history. After successfully negotiating with local labor leaders, Ruffin reopened the property as The New Frontier Hotel and Casino.

In 2007, Ruffin and Donald Trump formed a joint venture to build the 1,283-room Trump International Hotel & Tower Las Vegas. Ruffin also holds an additional 3.7 acres of undeveloped land in Las Vegas. In August 2007, he sold The New Frontier to the Elad Group for a record setting price for real estate on the Strip. With an itch to get back into the casino business, Ruffin purchased Treasure Island in Las Vegas on March 20, 2009 from MGM Mirage, where he continues to serve as its owner and top executive.

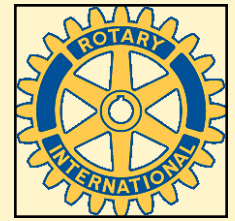


**March 14 — Bob Litan and Jacob Wayman**  
**Title: *The Entrepreneurial Challenge,***  
***What Can Wichita Do About It?***



Last year, Wichita native and consultant James Chung issued an important report challenging Wichita to go back to its entrepreneurial roots. Since then, a number of important developments have happened to meet that challenge. Meanwhile, the nation, too, faces the same challenge.

On March 14, we will hear from two of our new Rotarians who are in the thick of both the national and Wichita efforts to boost entrepreneurship rates through avenues like the launch of 1 Million Cups and the e2e Accelerator. Come hear Bob and Jacob share their knowledge gained from extensive experience promoting entrepreneurial networks.



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### The Four-Way Test

Is it the TRUTH?	Is it FAIR to all concerned?
Will it build GOODWILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?	Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

## Congratulations!

### Birthdays

Jo Ann Pottorff	March 7
Gary Oborny	March 9
Sheryl Wohlford	March 12

### Club Anniversaries

Jim Grier	42 years
Dick West	30 years
Steve Hauck	18 years
Steve Anthimides	12 years
Mike Brown	12 years

## ROTARY MEETING — FEBRUARY 29, 2016



Col. David Weishaar, 184th Intelligence Wing Commander for McConnell Air Force Base, presented an update on the many missions of the Kansas Air National Guard's 184th Intelligence Wing, including an inside look at security surveillance from a Predator drone. We appreciate their service to keep us safe!



New member Kerry Smith was introduced by Jan Luth. Kerry, who comes from an extensive military background, is the owner and business operations director of Zinta Inspired Language.



President Clay congratulated Joanne McClelland on her 20-year milestone anniversary with the club.

## MEETINGS & EVENT CALENDAR

- March 9** Brew & Tattoo — Anchor at 1109 E. Douglas, 5:15 pm
- March 14** WRCF Annual Board Meeting, Botanica Fireside Room, 1:00 pm
- March 15** Club Board Meeting, Rotary Office, 11:45 am

## DALE ALLEN



Congratulations to our member Dale Allen who, at the 71<sup>st</sup> annual meeting of the Sedgwick County Conservation District, was awarded the Conservation Leadership award for his years of dedicated service to the conservation of natural resources of his owned farm land and for serving the past 18 years as a conservation supervisor of Sedgwick County.

## PROGRAM CALENDAR

- March 7** — Phil Ruffin — Owner & CEO of The Ruffin Companies, Topic: *The Phil Ruffin Story*
- March 14** — Robert Litan and Jacob Wayman, Topic: *The Entrepreneurial Challenge, What Can Wichita Do About It?*
- March 21** — J. C. Combs — Author
- March 28** — To Be Announced