

Francis A. Smith
Pittsburg Sunflower Kiwanis Club

Francis A. Smith died March 5, 2015. He was a member of the Pittsburg Sunflower Kiwanis Club. He had lived in Pittsburg since 1970. He attained his graduate degree from University of Central Oklahoma and his EdS Degree from Pittsburg State University. He taught school in Cushing, OK and Wellington, KS, later serving as principle in Wellington; was principal of St. Mary's Grade School in Tulsa, OK; served as principal at Eugene Field Grade School in Pittsburg, KS, and later served as the principal of St. Mary's Grade School in Pittsburg, KS.

Ronald J. Sweat
Manhattan Kiwanis Club

Ronald J. Sweat died May 2, 2015. He was a member of the Manhattan Kiwanis Club, where he had served as club secretary and most recently as club president in 2013-14. Ron taught Vo-Ag in Marion prior to starting his career in banking. Throughout his banking career he worked in Beloit, Wakeeney (where he served as the bank president), Colby, and in Bethany, Missouri. After two years at the bank in Bethany he went to work for Walters Brothers Oil Distribution Company, where he was the bookkeeper until his retirement. He moved to Manhattan in 2001. He was also a member of the KSU Alumni Association and long-time supporter of the Mike Ahearn Scholarship Fund.

Byron G. Bird
Liberal Kiwanis Club

Byron G. Bird died May 31, 2015. He was a member of the Liberal Kiwanis Club and served as Lt. Governor of Division 10 of the Kansas District. He and his family moved to Liberal in 1959 where he started his own accounting firm which later became Byron Bird and Associates, from which he retired in 2010. He was also past president of the Liberal Chamber of Commerce, where he received the Chamber of Commerce Merit Award in 1991; former chairman of the SCCC Foundation, former president of the Seward County 4-H Foundation, former chairman of the Southwest Medical Center Board of Trustees and a former Southwest Medical Center Foundation Board of Directors Chairman. He was the first recipient of the Public Service Award from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and was also a recipient of the Sam Walton Leadership Award. He was chosen by Governor Mike Hayden as the 1990 Top Volunteer in the Kansas Caring for Kansas Program, named 1991 citizen of the year by Southwest Daily Times and also served on the Governor's Committee on the Employment of the Handicapped in 1976.

Terry L. Jochems
Pratt Kiwanis Club

Terry L. Jochems died June 11, 2015. He was an active member of the Pratt Kiwanis Club, and avid PCC and American Legion Baseball supporter and helped with Boy Scouts and the Miss Kansas Pageant. He earned a Master's degree of Science in Education from the Kansas State Teachers College at Emporia, KS and he had taught 5th grade at Southwest Elementary School in Pratt for 28 years. Terry was a member of the KNEA, NEA, Sacred Heart Catholic Church and was a 4th degree Knight with Knights of Columbus in Pratt, KS.

Jeannine Foster
Winfield Kiwanis Club

Jeannine Foster died July 7, 2015. She was a long-time member of the Winfield Kiwanis Club along with her husband Ed, who survives her. She taught elementary grades in Oxford following her education as a teacher. She continued teaching fifth grade at Irving Elementary School in Winfield. She received a Master Teacher award while teaching at Irving in 1990, just prior to her retirement. She was a long-time member of the Winfield Teachers Association, KNEA, NEA, Delta Kappa Gamma, Epsilon Sigma Alpha, Southwestern Dames, Eves Club, Cowley County Historical Society, Walnut Valley Quilters' Guild, Wannabees and Civil Air Patrol. She also served as the co-coordinator for the National Flat-Picking Championships at the Walnut Valley Festival for many years after retirement.

Ralph L. Miller
Manhattan Kiwanis Club

Ralph L. Miller died July 7, 2015. He joined the Manhattan Kiwanis Club in 1964 and served as President in 1971. He has been awarded the Legion of Honor - 45 years by KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL. Ralph provided yeoman effort in establishing the very successful Dine-Out coupon book in 1981. As a pharmacist, he found it difficult to attend regular meetings but made up for it by volunteering on various committees and club projects and earning perfect attendance credits. He was a Master Gardener and was responsible for establishing the Meadowlark Gardens for the residents' enjoyment. Meadowlark designated him as a Good Samaritan in 2008 for his concern for the less fortunate. Manhattan Kiwanis honored Ralph L. Miller with Honorary Membership in 2013.

Marjorie O. Heyne
Honorary Member - Manhattan Kiwanis Club

Marjorie O. Heyne died July 12, 2015. Marjorie was thought of as the Grand Dame of Manhattan Kiwanis. While never a member, she was always supportive of Kiwanis in spirit as well as financially. Until recently she remembered the club on her birthday. She appreciated being designated as an Honorary Member. Her incentive to be a "Kiwanian" was founded on her husband, Elmer Heyne. Elmer joined the club in 1950 and served as president in 1961. He initiated the Popcorn Project. A renowned geneticist, Elmer developed a strain of popcorn that continues today under the Redenbacher label. He not only developed the genome, he grew, harvested and packaged the popcorn as a Kiwanis fund raising project.

**Yola Bee Strobel
Hiawatha Kiwanis Club**

Yola Bee Strobel died July 29, 2015. She was the first female member of the Hiawatha Kiwanis Club and long-time club secretary. She resided in Hiawatha from 1959 until 1967 then moved to Plattsmouth, Nebraska, where her husband was a high school guidance counselor. She worked as a clerk for Minnegasco (now Black Hills Corp) for 18 years. In 1987, they moved back to Hiawatha, for retirement. While in Hiawatha, she had been the administrator of the Hiawatha Chamber of Commerce for five years, coordinator of the Fisher Community Center for three years, and worked in City Hall and the Law Enforcement Center for 14 years She was a member of the Hiawatha Chamber of Commerce, Brown County Historical Society, Hiawatha Hospital Auxiliary, and a member of the Hiawatha Red Cross Gray Ladies.

**Robert E. Ledom
Ottawa Kiwanis Club**

Robert E. "Bob" Ledom died Aug. 3, 2015. He was a member of the Ottawa Kiwanis Club. He was a teacher and touched many students' lives. In his early career he taught history and coached basketball in Clearwater and Florence, Kansas. He later became an administrator for Central Heights Elementary School in Ottawa in the late 1960s and early 1970s. He retired July of 1984 from Nike Junior High School in Gardner, Kansas.

**Joseph R. Cooke
Salina Kiwanis Club**

Joseph R. Cooke, died Aug. 8, 2015. Joe was a member of Salina Kiwanis Club for 25 years, serving as president for two terms, and was a distinguished lieutenant governor of Division 4 of the Kansas District of Kiwanis. In addition, he served as the secretary for the Kansas Kiwanis Foundation for 11 years. He served in the U.S. military for 22 years, retiring with a distinguished record. Joe later retired from the Salina School District as building operator and coordinator of shop services. He also retired as the director of maintenance for Asbury Hospitals.

**George J. Kutey
Fort Scott Kiwanis Club**

George Joseph Kutey died Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2015. He was a 25-year member of the Fort Scott Kiwanis Club and had served several terms as the club treasurer. He actively participated in the club's annual pancake feed, Eugene Ware fun night and tree planting program. He began a career with Lincoln National Insurance Company as group manager for health claims in their St. Louis office. He transferred to the Fort Scott office in 1990 and served as vice-president. He later worked in the investment center for Citizen's Bank NA where he represented Raymond James. He also was a 25-year member of the Knights of Columbus Council in Fort Scott where he served as the financial secretary for several years. He also participated in their Tootsie Roll Drives and the Lenten fish fries. He was a 3rd Degree Knight and was recently honored with awards of being the Knight of the Year for the Fort Scott Council, Knight of the Year for the District and Knight of the Year for the entire Wichita Diocese.

**Ferol Preston Gehring II
Atchison Kiwanis Club**

Ferol Preston Gehring II died Aug. 26, 2015. He was past president of the Atchison Kiwanis Club and a past Lt. Governor in the Kansas District. In 1966 he moved to Atchison to become part owner/operator with his father of F.P. Gehring Inc. He would become CEO of the company in 1985 to serve this capacity until 2006 when he retired. He was a 55-year member of the Associated General Contractors of Kansas. He held offices at J.G. Masonry and Crown Masonry, both of Kansas City; Kodiak Constructors of Independence, Mo. He was member and Past Exalted Ruler of BPOE (Elks Club), Board Member of Camp St. Maur of Atchison, charter member and past-president of OSFI Club, Atchison. He was a master judge for Kansas City BBQ Society.

**Carroll W. Whiteford
Ottawa Kiwanis Club**

Carroll W. Whiteford died Aug. 27, 2015. He joined the Ottawa Kiwanis Club in May 1965, and was recognized for 50 years of service on May 2015. He worked at Sunflower Ordinance from March 1953 until 1956 when he entered Molar Barber College in Kansas City. Upon graduation he went to work for Ted Bidleman in 1957 at Ottawa's Palace Barber Shop. After Ted's death, he bought the shop from and worked there 50 years, making many lasting friendships with his customers, retiring June of 2007.

**Gary Lee Koehn
Liberal Early Risers Kiwanis Club**

Gary Lee Koehn died Sept. 5, 2015. He was a member of the Liberal Early Risers Kiwanis Club. He was a lifelong resident of Liberal, graduating in 1960 from Liberal High School. He graduated from OPSU in 1965 and received his Master Degree in Education from Kansas State University in 1977. He retired from USD 480 as a teacher where he taught American History at West Middle School.