

Highlighter



Account Leaders



[Michael D. Driebe](#)
District Governor



[Gilda Riazi Moshir](#)
District Gov-Elect



[Dennis M. Franklin](#)
District Gov-Nominee



[Karina D. Anderson](#)
District Gov-Designate



[Michael L. Soden](#)
IPDG



[Larry Archuleta](#)
Area Governor



[Mary Lou Byrne](#)
Area Governor



[Lydia L. Carswell](#)
Area Governor



[Manuel L. Franco](#)
Area Governor



[Edgar O. Garcia-Mora](#)
Area Governor



[Daniel C. Harley II](#)
Area Governor



[Toni Kern](#)
Area Governor

[Mack Moore](#)
Area Governor

February 2025

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Memo from the District Governor

Dear District 5300 Rotarians,

As we enter February, I'm reminded again of the strength, compassion and commitment that defines Rotary and our incredible district. This past month has been a traumatic time for many, as lives, homes and businesses were lost to the devastating wildfires in the Los Angeles region. The destruction was profound, but so was the response from you - our Rotary family. Your generosity and quick action have been nothing short of extraordinary. Through contributions to our disaster relief fund, hands-on volunteerism, and unwavering support for affected families, you've truly demonstrated *Service Above Self*. I am humbled and proud to see how District 5300 rallied to provide hope and help when it was needed most. Thank you for making a very real and positive difference.

The physical work of recovery continues, but there is unseen damage, too. That's why I want to invite you to take part in a multi-district zoom call that will begin to address the emotional and psychological trauma done by this disaster. All are welcome to join us on **Sunday, February 2, at 10:00 am** for, "Understanding and Living With Collective Trauma." No registration is needed. Just go to [this link](#) or enter Meeting ID: 867 6399 6658 and Passcode: 759190 in zoom. This will be an important first step in connecting, sharing and healing.



Debra A. Parsley
Area Governor



Eric B. Threeton
Area Governor



Nona Tirre Miranda
Area Governor



Isaac Hung
EAG - CA West



Edward Abad
EAG - Antelope Valley/Victor Valley



Rae Kearney
EAG - CA East



Rebecca Fritz
EAG - Nevada



Vicky Ann Abbott
Assistant Governor



Mark Mariscal
Rotary Foundation Chair

Events

February 1st
[RLI - Nevada - Part I, II-5300](#)

February 2nd
[Understanding & Living With Collective Trauma](#)

February 4th
[Green Valley: Meet the Artist Reception/Fundraiser](#)

February 6th
[Industry Hills International Book Drive](#)

February 8th
[Disaster Relief Supply Distribution](#)

February 8th
[Boulder City Rotary Adopt a Hwy](#)

February 8th
[Virtual President's Advance](#)

February 8th
[Altadena Rotary Altadena Recovery Event](#)

February 11th
[LV Southwest: Puerto Vallarta International Water Filter Project](#)

February 12th
[LV After Hours/DT Rotary -](#)

I also believe that trauma is healed in part when people connect over a gift of food or supplies. If you'd like to lend a hand doing just that for people affected in the Altadena community, a distribution will take place on **Saturday, February 8th** at Grocery Outlet Bargain Market, 2270 Lake Avenue, Altadena from 10:00 to 3:00. To prepare, we'll need your help early that morning, starting at 7:00 to sort and arrange the supplies. The items are currently stored in multiple locations and so, we'll also need help getting them loaded into trucks the day before. PDG Gene Hernandez will coordinate this effort. Please email him at genejhernandez@gmail.com if you can lend a hand.

Club presidents, I recognize that the distribution is the same day and time as the virtual President's Advance, and that many of you will be eager to roll up your sleeves to help, but I hope you'll take this opportunity to meet together and recharge your "presidential battery," instead. There will be many more chances to lend a hand in the weeks and months ahead, so I hope to see you at the Advance.

There's some good news on the fundraising front. Many of you are familiar with ShelterBox USA. They have been long-standing partners with Rotary, and I'm happy to announce they have created a matching fund for the benefit of the wildfire victims in our district and in neighboring district 5280. Gifts will be matched up to \$100,000! This means our districts will have \$200,000 to help victims with long-term recovery, *if we can meet the goal*. If you or your club would like to make a gift and have it doubled, please click here: <https://givebutter.com/LA-Fires-Relief-Fund>. This information will be shared across our Zone, which includes districts from Colorado to Hawaii, and from Canada to Mexico. Short-term needs will still be funded by gifts to District 5300's wildfire disaster relief fund.

I want to close on one more positive note and give a shout-out to all those involved in the Rotary Rose Parade Float, "On the Road with Rotary." It was a beautiful representation of the theme, "Best Day Ever," and I'm not the only one who thought so. It won an award for best floral representation of the parade theme on a float under 35 feet. It also demonstrated the creativity and teamwork that defines Rotary. To Committee Chair Gene Hernandez, and all the volunteers who made it happen, congratulations!

As always, thanks for all you do. You continue to respond to the challenges we face both here and across the world with courage and compassion.

Best,
Mike

District 5300 California Wildfire Disaster Relief Grants

By Christine Smith

District 5300 has created a fund to assist those impacted by the California wildfires. We will distribute the funds in phases. In Phase 1 the District has allocated \$40,000 to District grant funds to distribute to clubs that develop a project assisting people impacted by the devastation of the fires. If you have questions, you may email christine.smith@unlv.edu or call her at (702) 290-6544.

The District 5300 California Wildfire Disaster Relief Grants are a one-time special infusion of grant funds from the donations of District 5300 Rotarians and others to the District 5300 Foundation to fund smaller, short-term activities that specifically address the needs of first responders and those impacted by the 2025 Southern California fires.

Guidelines for Applications

1. Preference will be given to applications of clubs who collaborate with local non-profits (i.e. St. Vincent de Paul, food banks, etc.) to support those impacted.
2. Align with the [Terms and Conditions for Rotary Foundation Disaster Response Grants](#).
3. Grant requests should not exceed \$2,500.
4. Clubs may distribute funds only to non-Rotarians.

Clubs will receive grant funds via check in U.S. mail after the District Grants Committee approves the grant application.

How much is available for District 5300 California Wildfire Disaster Relief Grants?

The total District 5300 California Wildfire Disaster Relief Grant Funds immediately available to District 5300 is approximately \$40,000 and Clubs may request up to \$2,500. We anticipate more funding to be available in the weeks to come and will notify clubs.

How do clubs qualify and apply for District Grant funds?

To qualify clubs must:

1. Attend zoom meeting on [Feb. 6 at 5pm](#) or have two members with District training for District Grants.
2. Submit a "round 3" application **by February 15, 2025**. If funds are available, we will review applications after this deadline.

Project 150 Food Drive

February 13th

LV Southwest - Happy Feet

February 13th

Ontario-Montclair Students of the Month

February 19th-21st

Claremont Together We Prepare (CPR Training for 8th graders)

February 19th

LV Summerlin-Just One Project - Grocery Packing & Stocking

February 19th

LV After Hours - Agassi Birthday Hour

February 19th

LV After Hours - Book Cleaning for Spread the Word Nevada

February 21st

Upland-ETR @ Moga Law Firm

February 22nd

Las Vegas Summerlin - Just One Pop Up Market

February 25th

LV Southwest: Greenspokes

February 27th

Henderson After Hours Club Service - Spread the Word - Nevada

3. Be current on all past grant reports.

4. Have the person completing the final report for the club's grants attend final report training. Clubs that do not submit final reports within 30 days of receiving funding from the District will not be eligible for future funding.

Help Needed for Rotaplast Mission

By Drexel Smith, District Rotaplast chair

We still have two volunteer positions open for the two-week Rotaplast Mission to Kampala, Uganda, departing from SFO June 7th and returning June 22, 2025. Our District 5300 is the sponsor of this mission. For the Team of eight we have two more non-medical positions available:

1. Medical Record Keeper - Open
2. Sterilizer - Open

Also, Rotaplast has an immediate need for a competent web-savvy volunteer for the Medical Records Keeper role on the Chittagong, Bangladesh mission **Feb 8-23, 2025**.

If interested in any of these positions, please contact our District Cleft-Lip project Chair Drexel L. Smith at: dls@drexelcg.com

Global Grant Scholarships --Deadline February 28

By Bill Payne, Global Grant Scholar Chair

A best-kept secret, known to likely less than a dozen District 5300 Rotary Clubs – is the Global Grant scholarship, for a graduate degree at a foreign university of one's choice. It is worth as much as \$31,000.

The deadline for submittals is **February 28**, with District interviews sometime in March.

Worthy scholar candidates are often: students Rotarians know; students actively recruited through an article about this scholarship opportunity in your local newspaper; putting information on your Club website; and/or using the Registrar and Guidance Counselors at your local college.

District 5300 has awarded 18 Global Grant Scholarships over the years. Four of these recipients are now attending universities in London, New Zealand, Scotland and Bristol (UK).

Further information is on the District 5300 website, and from Bill Payne, District Global Grant chair, at 626.252.9505 and bill.payne10@gmail.com.

Maximizing Our Rotary Impact Through Effective Public Image

By DGD Kari Anderson

In today's digital age, sharing our Rotary story effectively can transform how our community perceives and engages with our mission. As District 5300 continues to make a difference, the power of proper event documentation and brand consistency becomes increasingly crucial.

The Digital Gateway to Community Engagement

When entering events into DACdb's calendar section, selecting the "Club Event" or "Club Service Project" options does more than just record our activities—it creates a gateway for potential members to discover Rotary through our district website. Each properly categorized event automatically appears on comesewhatwedo.org expanding our reach beyond our current membership and inviting the community to participate in our service projects.

Understanding Our Digital Audience

Recent social media demographics reveal interesting patterns in platform usage: *Facebook* continues to be the platform of choice for adults aged 35-65, making it ideal for reaching established professionals and community leaders. *Instagram* attracts users primarily between 25-40, perfect for engaging young professionals and families. *LinkedIn* provides excellent opportunities to connect with business leaders and professionals who align with Rotary's values. *TikTok* and *YouTube* reach younger demographics, offering creative ways to showcase our hands-on service projects.

Brand Consistency Builds Trust

The Rotary Brand Center serves as our compass for maintaining a professional and unified presence. Consistent use of Rotary's visual identity—from logos to color schemes—helps build recognition and trust in our communities. Whether you're creating social media posts, flyers, or banners, these resources ensure our message remains clear and impactful.

Share Your Success Stories

I am eager to amplify your club's successes. Have you recently completed a meaningful project? Hosted a successful fundraiser? Or perhaps you welcomed new members through your public image efforts? Please share your stories and best practices with me so we can inspire other clubs and showcase the vibrant spirit of District 5300.

Together, we can strengthen Rotary's presence in our communities and attract passionate individuals ready to join us in Service Above Self. Remember: Every properly documented event and well-crafted story brings us closer to engaging our next generation of Rotarians.

Let's make every post, every event listing, and every image count!

Rotary Ethics Essay Contest 2/5 Deadline for Club Intent to Participate

Fostering Ethical Growth and Mental Health Awareness in our HS students

By Manuel "Manny" Franco, District Chair

I'm thrilled to promote the Rotary Ethics Essay Contest (*formally the George Hensel Ethics Essay Contest*), an exceptional platform for young minds to develop critical thinking, explore ethical dilemmas, and find their voice on meaningful topics. This contest is about more than essays—it's about empowering students to address real-world challenges while nurturing resilience and mental health awareness.

In today's complex world, where youth face increasing mental health struggles, this contest provides an opportunity for self-reflection and problem-solving. According to reports, *"Mental health challenges in children, adolescents, and young adults are real and widespread. An alarming number of young people struggle with feelings of helplessness, depression, and thoughts of suicide — and rates have increased over the past decade."* Initiatives like this encourage personal growth, reminding students they have the strength to navigate life's complexities.

Parents and educators play a crucial role in this journey. As the saying goes, *"Parents must let go to let them grow."* Supporting participation in programs like the Ethics Essay Contest helps guide students toward independence, ethical decision-making, and resilience.

The District contest rewards: the Grand Prize winner receives \$2,000, their teacher \$500. The 1st and 2nd Runners-Up earn \$500, their teachers receive \$100.

This is more than a competition—it's a chance to inspire the next generation of ethical leaders. The club intent **deadline has been extended to February 5**. Visit District 5300's website for details.

Would you like to change Rotary? You can, Here's how:

By PDG John Chase

Rotary International may have one of the most democratic legislative system of any organization. It is a little clumsy and expensive, but very effective. Any Rotarian in the world can propose a change in how Rotary International operates and propose any part of the constitution or bylaws. The legislative body is called the Council on Legislation (COL). It meets every three years and is made up of one representative from all 500+ districts in the world. This three-year term our representative is John Chase. John's role is to share the potential enactments that could change how Rotary International functions, discuss them with anyone interested, and vote them up or down.

An enactment is created, first, by anyone that has an idea that may make the management of Rotary International more effective. They simply need to convince their club, and have their district vote on the idea. If a simple majority in the district votes positively, it may be considered by the COL. A positive vote by the COL is an automatic change in Rotary operations, two thirds for a RI constitutional change, simple majority for bylaws or club constitution change.

The COL will meet in Chicago, April 13-18, 2025 where 86 proposed enactments will be debated and votes will be made. The proposed enactments are listed on the Rotary.org website and you are encouraged to read and share your thoughts.

You can find the enactments by the following steps. Go to:

Rotary.org

My Rotary (sign in)

Knowledge and Resources

Policies and procedures

Council on Legislation, then

Scroll down to Council on Legislation and click on "proposed legislation – 2025"

Any questions or opinions can be directed to contact John Chase, email: jchase5300@gmail.com or by phone: 702-497-3328.

Inclusive Leadership Committee 2025

By Gino Reyes, Vegas Verde President

As we navigate through a time of significant political and societal change, it is crucial to remember that our commitment to Rotary's core values—service, fellowship, diversity, integrity, and leadership—remains steadfast. These changes, no matter how dramatic or divisive, do not dictate our mission or sway us from the principles that unite us.

Now more than ever, inclusive leadership is essential for the future of Rotary International. True leadership transcends boundaries, embraces diverse perspectives, and fosters collaboration among people of all backgrounds. It is through inclusivity that we cultivate innovative ideas, empower our communities, and drive sustainable change on a global scale.

As Rotarians, we are uniquely positioned to lead by example, demonstrating the power of unity, understanding, and mutual respect. Let us rise to the occasion, ensuring that Rotary continues to be a beacon of hope, compassion, and inclusivity for generations to come.

Together, we can create a future where our diversity becomes our strength, and our shared purpose continues to make a lasting impact in a world that needs it more than ever.

If you are passionate about advancing the mission of Rotary through inclusive leadership and want to make a lasting impact in District 5300, we want to hear from you!

Please contact me directly if you have interest or questions. C: 206-280-6907 E: Gino@ginosellsvegas.com

Rotary Poet of the Year Awards 2025

By Rotary e-Club of Innovation



Need a creative outlet? The Rotary Poetry Awards 2025, sponsored by the Rotary e-Club of Innovation, launches from January 1, 2025 to end date April 30, 2025.

Send in your poem via the entry page (and make a donation per entry) and join hundreds of others putting pen to paper for Rotary charities. <https://poetrycompetition.org/> We accept any language.

Two categories this year.

- The Magic of Rotary.
- An open category

Prize winners will be announced at Rotary International Convention in Calgary, Canada, June 2025 by RI President Stephanie Urchick.

- Overall winner* receives the coveted Rotary Poet of the Year plaque, hand crafted by "The Island Glass Studio" UK and £100 or equivalent Amazon Gift Token, and payment of the annual RI membership fee, if a Rotarian**
- The second prize will be a £50 or equivalent Amazon Gift Token plus a hand crafted paperweight from the "Island Glass Studio" in the UK.
- Additionally, judges will be selecting poems that are highly commended and a certificate for these will be presented, either by your district governor or club president.
- You do not need to attend the RI convention to enter the competition or receive an award.

CLUB HIGHLIGHTS

Altadena Rotarians met with the San Marino Club after the Eaton Fire

By DGE Gilda Moshir

As you may have heard, the Altadena club lost its meeting space in the Eaton fire. The Altadena Country Club burned down. Of the 16 people who joined us, half had lost their homes and half hadn't, but both groups couldn't go back to the burn site due to chemical hazards.

The Rotary club of San Marino welcomed the Altadena club to join in meeting for lunch on January

16; our two clubs meet Thursdays at noon.

The Altadena members felt supported and loved knowing that their neighbors down the road cared so much for them. It was an opportunity to share their stories and get hugs and comfort. We cried, we hugged and we were inspired by the speakers of the day.



Antelope Valley -- Busy January

By Joshua Konrad, Antelope Valley Due to the New Year holidays and the LA Fires, our club met thrice in January. Nonetheless, we still achieved a lot even when going dark twice in one month. During our January Board Meeting, the Rotary Club of the Antelope Valley unanimously voted to donate \$1,000 to District 5300 for the victims of the most recent fires. This is in addition to the donations that our members made individually. PP Tina Borzage represented our club during the January 25th Rotary Peace Conference at President Nixon Library.

On Wednesday, January 29, members of the Rotary Club of the Antelope Valley spent the morning with School Superintendent Steve Doyle at Wilsona School District as we handed over \$1,000 worth of school supplies, which included a new laminator and corresponding supplies to run the machine for the teachers and staff members to use for the classroom. Finally, during our January Board Meeting, we began the preliminary planning for our 5th annual June 2025 Fiesta Day fundraiser. Once the details have been finalized, information for the event will be emailed to all of the club presidents within District 5300.

Claremont Peace Poles Project

By Susie Ilsley, President Claremont Rotary

We are excited about the Claremont Rotary Club's International Peace Poles Project! These poles are a part of a Rotary International initiative. RI President Stephanie Urchick challenged all clubs WORLDWIDE to plant Peace Poles in their communities. We are fortunate that our city of Claremont approved our Club to install two of them! One will be installed at Harrison and Indian Hill Blvd. next to the sign of Mallow's Park facing Indian Hill Blvd. The second pole will be installed next to the signage of Shelton Park in downtown Claremont on the corner of Bonita and Harvard.

Each pole says May Peace Prevail on Earth in four languages. We honored the several languages that represent some of our member's mother tongues: We have chosen: Sesotho, Portuguese, Persian, Spanish, English, Hebrew, Mandarin Chinese, and Arabic.

These poles are dedicated as international monuments to planetary peace and harmony. The words come at such a needed time in our world. MAY PEACE PREVAIL ON EARTH.



Pomona Participates in Human Trafficking Awareness Day

By Josh Landis, Pomona Club President

On January 11, Pomona Rotarians attended an anti-human trafficking awareness event put together by several non-profits in the city that work with survivors of human trafficking. During the event, Pomona Rotary was honored with a special recognition for its contributions to the non-profits and collaboration in the fight against human trafficking. Pomona Rotary has helped put together backpacks for survivors and assisted in creating a clothing donation center for business attire, clothing that people can wear for job interviews. District Governor Mike Driebe was able to attend to show support of the local Rotary Club.



Green Valley Club Cleans Books for Spread the Word Nevada

By Barbara Billitzer, Rotary Club of Green Valley

On January 28th, the Green Valley Rotary Club met at Spread the Word Nevada for an enjoyable night of book cleaning. Alongside other groups of volunteers, 3,000 gently used books were cleaned and made ready for distribution to disadvantaged schools. Spread the Word Nevada advances childhood literacy by distributing books every month to low-income schools. The nonprofit relies on the generous support of individuals, local businesses and organizations to provide new and gently used books to students in Nevada who can't afford their own. To date, they have adopted 78 Nevada elementary schools and donate an average of 60,000 books per month. These books go directly to children to inspire them to read and help them success both inside and outside the classroom.

