

# Highlighter



## District Leaders



[Michael D. Driebe](#)  
District Governor



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



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



[Michael L. Soden](#)  
IPDG

## Events

November 1st  
[Lancaster School District Food Distribution](#)

November 2nd  
[Glendora Food Packaging 30,000 meals for local Food Bank](#)

November 2nd  
[Altadena: Flags for Election Day, Veterans Day & Thanksgiving](#)

November 2nd  
[Upland Rotary Bike Ride](#)

November 5th  
[DG Official Visit - Alhambra and Monterey Park](#)

November 6th  
[LV After Hours - family dinner prep at Ronald McDonald House](#)

November 7th  
[DG Official Visit - Covina](#)

November 7th  
[Henderson After Hours Club Service - Spread the Word - NV](#)

November 8th  
[West Covina Yard Sale Fundraiser](#)

## NOVEMBER 2024

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### Highlights from DG Mike Driebe



November is Rotary Foundation month and I want to take this opportunity to write a few words about its importance.

I've often said the foundation is the engine that moves Rotary and is a cornerstone of our mission to create lasting, positive change. The Foundation enables Rotarians worldwide to tackle some of the most pressing issues, from eradicating polio to providing clean water, promoting peace, and supporting education. Through our collective contributions, we're able to address these challenges and others with sustained, impactful solutions.

Your contributions are transformed into grants that allow clubs to respond to local and international needs, making a real and positive difference in lives of people everywhere. The Foundation's success depends on each of us. By donating, we help sustain and expand our projects, ensuring that our efforts remain a beacon of hope worldwide.

Supporting the foundation is more than just an act of generosity – it is an investment in the future. Through ongoing support, we can ensure that Rotary is a driving force for good, able to respond to emerging challenges with the same passion and commitment that we're known for.

Please consider making a special gift to the Foundation in November so we can continue to make a profound difference to those in need.

Yours in Rotary,  
Mike

### Rotary Leadership Institute....and Beer

By DGN Dennis Franklin



**On Saturday, November 16**, we'll be holding Rotary Leadership Institute Parts I, II, and if we have enough demand, Part III, from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. in Azusa California. After the event, participants can join us at Angry Horse Brewing in Montebello. We'll provide dinner, take our guests on a tour of the brewery, and enjoy a tasting session with the owners. It's all included in your \$45 registration fee. You'll end the day understanding how to be a more effective Rotarian, not to mention about what goes into a quality beer and how to find the flavors that you love.

To register:

November 8th  
[Green Valley - Las Vegas Distillery Tour and Tasting](#)

November 9th  
[Apple Valley - High Desert Veterans Appreciation BBO](#)

November 11th  
[Covina - Field of Valor](#)

November 12th  
[Green Valley - Holiday Meal Assembly at Olive Crest](#)

November 13th  
[DG Official Visit - South Pasadena](#)

November 14th  
[Ontario-Montclair Students of the Month \(DG Visit\)](#)

November 14th  
[DG Official Visit - Ontario Montclair](#)

November 14th  
[Henderson After Hours Service Project](#)

November 14th  
[Alhambra & Monterey Park Reverse Raffle](#)

November 15th  
[Lancaster Sunrise School District Food Distribution](#)

November 16th  
[Las Vegas Summerlin Just One Pop Up Market](#)

November 16th  
[LV After Hours - Just One Project Food Dist w/Summerlin Rotary](#)

November 16th  
[RLI - Southern California Part I, II, III - 5300](#)

November 16th  
[Santa's Pantry Holiday Food Distribution - Pack Boxes - Altadena](#)

November 16th  
[Monrovia Rotary Park Playground Ribbon Cutting](#)

November 18th  
[Lancaster Sunrise - Service Project- YMCA Food Distribution](#)

November 19th  
[Las Vegas Summerlin Professional Business Series](#)

November 19th  
[Las Vegas Summerlin It's Time to Mingle](#)

November 20th  
[Multi Club Social LaVerne, Upland, Claremont](#)

November 20th  
[LV Summerlin Just One Project - Grocery Packing & Stocking](#)

November 20th  
[LV After Hours - Agassi Boys & Girls Club Thanksgiving](#)

November 21st  
[DG Official Visit - Azusa Rotary](#)

November 23rd  
[Santa's Pantry Holiday Food Distribution - Altadena](#)

<https://Registrations.DACdb.com/Register/index.cfm?EventID=77791530&NoCaptcha>

Also, on **Saturday, February 1**, we'll be holding a Rotary Leadership Institute event in Boulder City. Afterwards, participants can join us for some social time where we'll learn about the fascinating history of, you guessed it . . . the Hoover Dam.

To register:  
<https://Registrations.DACdb.com/Register/index.cfm?EventID=77791530&NoCaptcha>

Cheers!  
 Dennis Franklin

## Pre-PETS Gathering

By DGE Gilda Moshir



DGE Gilda Moshir and her team of facilitators hosted the October 26 pre-PETS training at the Azusa Senior Center, accompanied by 20 incoming Presidents for the 25-26 year (pictured below). Thank you to all of the presidents who came and to the facilitators, including DG Mike Driebe, IPDG Mike Soden, DGN Dennis Franklin, DGND Kari Anderson, PDG Tom Novotny Executive AG Edward Abad, Executive AG Rae Kearney, AG Lydia Carswell, CA Chief of Staff for Gilda Justine Adamec, and DRFC Mark Mariscal. Incoming Presidents please send your headshots to Gilda Moshir asap!



## Let's All Make This Holiday Season Unforgettable!

By Betty Bui, South Pasadena President-elect

This holiday season, we have an incredible opportunity to come together, make an impact, and showcase the magic of Rotary. Last year, our first-ever Holiday Gifting Party for our homeless community in DTLA, organized by our South Pasadena Rotary Club, the Interact Club of South Pasadena High School, and Monterey Hills Elementary School, surpassed all expectations. Lines of people in need stretched down the street, and everyone involved saw how powerful even a small act of service could be.

Our District Governor, Past Governors, and PE District Governor are all calling for a united district effort. Now, as we enter our second year, this is our chance to work together in service, to make a statement of compassion, and to bring warmth to those who need it most. On **Sunday, December 8th**, from 8 to 10 am, we'll gather



November 24th  
[Azusa - Assemblywoman Blanca Rubio's Operation Gobble](#)  
 November 28th  
[San Marino Weekly Club Meeting](#)  
 December 3rd  
[LV Southwest Happy Feet](#)  
 December 5th  
[Santa Clothes - Joint LV Clubs](#)  
 December 6th  
[Interact Club](#)  
 December 7th  
[Covina - Endless Smiles](#)  
 December 7th  
[Take Down Flags on Lake Avenue - Altadena](#)  
 December 7th  
[Green Valley Annual Christmas/Holiday Party](#)  
 December 8th  
[Monrovia Rotary Club Santa clothes](#)  
 December 8th  
[Target Shopping for Kids](#)  
 December 8th  
[Las Vegas Summerlin Holiday Party - December 8](#)  
 December 9th  
[Annual Soccer Tournament](#)  
 December 10th  
[Boulder City - Christmas Party](#)  
 December 11th  
[Green Valley - Hoolihan's Christmas for KIDS](#)  
 December 11th  
[Interact Club](#)  
 December 12th  
[LV Southwest - Holiday Party](#)  
 December 12th  
[Ontario-Montclair Students of the Month](#)  
 December 12th  
[Henderson After Hours Service Project](#)  
 December 13th  
[Lancaster Sunrise School District Food Distribution](#)  
 December 14th  
[LSR Club Christmas Party](#)

in Downtown Los Angeles to share wrapped essential winter presents with our homeless community. We know this is a small, punctual effort, but it's one that lifts spirits and inspires hope—showing those in need that they are not alone.

Our vision goes beyond just one day. When we come together in service, we're not only helping people in need; we're setting an example that can inspire other nonprofits, government agencies, and community organizations to step up, too. And maybe, just maybe, that warmth and support will spark a moment of hope for those we're serving, encouraging them to believe in change for themselves.

**Here's the call to action:** We're collecting jackets, blankets, gloves, socks, hats, and sleeping bags—all essentials to brave the winter. Every club is invited to join us, no matter the distance. This isn't just a project—it's a movement, a testament to Rotary's unity, strength, and compassion.

**Event Details:**

- **Collection Bin:** Now through November 30, South Pasadena High School, 1401 Fremont Ave., South Pasadena, CA 91030. You could have your own collection bins and bring those donations on December 8th.
- **Holiday Gifting Party:** December 8, 8–10 am, 1020 S. Flower St., Los Angeles, CA 90015 (corner of Flower and Olympic)

Together, let's show our district at large the power of Rotary to make a difference. Let's bring warmth, community, and hope to those who need it most. Let's give them the feeling that they're cared for and that they have the strength to make a change.

**For more details about this service project, please contact**  
[rotaryclubofsouthpasadena@gmail.com](mailto:rotaryclubofsouthpasadena@gmail.com) & [interact.sphs5300@gmail.com](mailto:interact.sphs5300@gmail.com)

## Claremont Club -- A Season of Giving Thanks

The Claremont Club recently admitted Barbara Perry Lorek as a new member. She wasted no time in getting active. In anticipation of Thanksgiving, she submitted the following to the Club Newsletter, The Clarifier.



**It's Always Time to Give Thanks**

Sending A Thank You Note Should Not Be An Antiquated Ritual. Many years ago, I found myself lecturing my then 15 year old daughter on the importance of thanking the people who supported her recent Girl Scout candy sales. "Just a note to acknowledge their support," I nudged. She looked bewildered. The failure to express gratitude isn't relegated to the millennial generation and those who follow after them. It isn't a matter of whether we are grateful or

not but that we're busy. We said "thank you" isn't that enough? How long does it take to put pen to paper and send a note expressing our gratitude? What about a gift of gratitude? Is it a budget issue? Time? Resources?

"Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all the others." *Marcus Tullius Cicero*

Take a minute or two and stop to consider where you are in your career. Who helped you get your start? Who is still mentoring you? Do you have clients or constituents that refer to you? How do you acknowledge those folks and their role in your success? Do they know how vital they are to your success or that of your organization? Maybe they would buy more, give more, refer more or do more



if they knew what a difference they made. Or maybe you would simply make their day.

Thanksgiving is around the corner. If you haven't been overly gracious in the past, now is a perfect time to express your appreciation to those who have made a difference in your life. And whether your gratitude is personal or professional, Thanksgiving is a national holiday that provides the perfect platform for your sentiments. The added perk to addressing your recipients now is that you avoid the noise of the December holidays and your meaningful message is much less likely to get lost in the bustle.

Once you have made your list, the question still remains, what to send? A handwritten note? A useful gift that reminds its recipient everyday of you or your organization? It truly is the thought and effort that counts. It doesn't have to be big or expensive but thoughtful, visually pleasing and relevant always make a good impression. I am still surprised to walk into my customer's offices to find the note cards I have sent to them pinned to their bulletin boards or the useful items I have given them displayed on their desks.

So, take a moment to consider the individuals and organizations you are grateful for and then thank them! And thank you, for your time.

*Barbara Perry-Lorek, Chameleon Creative Group*

## CLUB FUNDRAISERS

### West Covina Tutorial Cause Based Cub Fundraiser

*By Raghada Khoury*

West Covina Tutorial Cause-Based Cub is a fairly new club and we are having a YARD SALE as our first fundraiser on November 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> from 8 am to 1 pm at West Covina Christian Church, 1100 E Cameron Avenue, West Covina, CA, 91750. Donation of items is greatly appreciated and can be dropped off prior to the yard sale. Contact Club President Maricela Mangin ([sanman9054@gmail.com](mailto:sanman9054@gmail.com) or 626-228-8040) to make arrangements.

All proceeds will help provide school supplies, books, and after school snacks to the students who are enrolled in the McKinney-Vento program in the West Covina Unified School District. These students are at most times unhoused or in transitional living. The McKinney-Vento Homeless Act is federal legislation that ensures the educational rights and protections of children and youth experiencing homelessness.

## OCTOBER CLUB HIGHLIGHTS

### Altadena Rotary Club

*by Club President Maricela Viramontes*

Coming off of the 9-week Summer Concert Series, our club members continued in October with Service Above Self by holding a Free Community Pancake Breakfast, helping the local library recognize volunteer leaders, helped with the library bookstore/sale and started planning for the Holiday Season. All of these programs have funding from the Rotary Foundation (club DDF).

Our club was also recognized by another local organization who thanked us for our years of volunteer service and funding support for their events. We also installed five new members in late September to our club and have two other prospective members in the wings. More importantly, we have not lost a member this year. Our weekly SPARKS Newsletter keeps members informed. You can find our last eight newsletters on our website if you want to see how we do it. <http://www.altadenarotary.org>



## Azusa Rotary Club, October Service and Recognition

*By Marilyn Grinsdale, Azusa Rotary*

### **Making a Difference in our Community**

During our lunch meeting on October 17, Azusa Rotary Foundation board members Roger Gutierrez, Robert Landeros, Mayra Rico and Rae Kearney were delighted to present donation checks to representatives of local organizations, including \$500 to Neighborhood Homework House; \$750 to the Citrus College Veterans Success Center; \$500 to the Azusa Community Resources Department and \$600 to Forever Kids. The club also sent a check for \$750 to the Office of Military and Veteran Services at Azusa Pacific University.

The club extends its gratitude to our dedicated Field of Glory sponsors, whose generous contributions have empowered the club to make a meaningful impact in the lives of youth and student veterans.

Members of Azusa Rotary will pass out turkeys and food boxes at Assemblywoman Blanca E. Rubio's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Operation Gobble on November 24. This event brings happiness to at least a thousand people who drive through to collect their Thanksgiving turkeys and produce. It's a way to serve our community and show our appreciation to Assemblywoman Rubio for her continued sponsorship of the Field of Glory."

### **WWII Veteran Joe "Pepe" Sciarra Honored**

On the evening of October 24, WWII veteran Joe "Peppy" Sciarra was celebrated at an event hosted by Azusa Rotary. Also in attendance were members of the Arcadia, Glendora and Alhambra Rotary Clubs, as well as Joe's family and several community members.

A longtime member of the Alhambra Rotary Club, Joe shared some of his experiences in the war. As an infantryman, he fought in the South Pacific and became a platoon sergeant at the age of 20. Joe was awarded two Bronze Stars for his courage under fire. Now, Joe remembers World War II each day. He asked guests to never forget about World War II veterans. In his words, "World War II veterans saved the world."

Since serving as keynote speaker at Azusa Rotary's Field of Glory 2024 Opening Ceremony, Joe has become a treasured friend of the club. He will soon celebrate his 100th birthday, and we wish him a very "happy birthday" and many more.





## LV After Hours DG Driebe honors Jeremy Bruner as VSR

by President Cat Brame

Las Vegas After Hours Rotary is filled with many service-oriented individuals. New members are always excited about getting started with giving to our community with the Club. However, rarely do we see brand new members that dive in so quickly as our VSR (Very Special Rotarian), Jeremy Bruner! Our VSR, nearly overnight, became one of our most active members serving 255 hours in his first year. He took his experience working with children to a new level by volunteering to go to TLC just weeks after joining our club. Since then, he's gone to RYLA, helped build a home in Mexico and participated in numerous local service events. He is now a member of the TLC committee and planning on helping develop our future leaders. He is also currently our Secretary and will be celebrating his 1st year in Rotary next month. He continues his commitment to children with his own business, Tech Brainiacs, which teaches elementary age kids computer skills and coding. He is an avid hiker, traveler and concert goer. We are thrilled to have Jeremy in our Club and as our Very Special Rotarian! And, he doesn't do it for the recognition - kids and service really are his passion!



## Las Vegas Southwest's Notable Speakers

By Keith Thomas

The Rotary Club of Las Vegas Southwest ("Southwest Rotary") is known for having impactful and interesting speakers. Two of the speakers at recent club meeting are good examples.

The first was Joe Lombardo who is currently serving as the Governor of the State of Nevada. Elected in 2022, he had previously served for 26 years with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. His focus is on diversifying Nevada's economy, restoring law and order, and bringing excellence, school choice, and accountability to Nevada's education system. Check out his personal website for more insight into his views and plans for Nevada: <https://www.joelombardofornv.com/about>.



The second is former Governor Robert List who served as Nevada's governor from 1979-1983, during which time he led the formidable and successful fight to drive the mob from the state's casino industry. His presentation was especially meaningful since he provided his perspective and opinions on the upcoming election. Click [here](#) for some interesting personal observations he made about his career. He actually joined Rotary in Carson City in 1959! He continues to be active in the law, practicing in the areas of administrative and regulatory law, commercial and civil transactions, and government affairs.



In recognition of their service to the State of Nevada, it was our pleasure to award each of them with a Paul Harris Fellowship. Club President Bruce Mackenzie and **Troy Lochhead**, our Foundation Committee chair, made the presentations.

## MEMBERSHIP

### Vegas Verde: The Missed Opportunity

By Gino Reyes, President Vegas Verde

Historically, Rotary International has been perceived as conservative in nature, shaped by the traditions and values of its founding members. While the organization has made efforts to diversify over the years by welcoming women and promoting racial inclusivity, the LGBTQ+ community remains an area where progress has been slower. For many years, Rotary clubs in various parts of the world have not explicitly addressed issues of sexual orientation or gender identity. This can give

the impression that LGBTQ+ individuals are not fully embraced or that their unique perspectives are undervalued.

This hesitation represents a missed opportunity. LGBTQ+ individuals contribute to every sphere of society, from the arts and education to business and government. By not actively engaging with and supporting this community, Rotary risks alienating a significant group of potential members—people who are dedicated to service, leadership, and advocacy, values that Rotary holds dear. Failing to welcome LGBTQ+ individuals with open arms also hinders Rotary's goal of reflecting the diverse communities it serves.

The future of Rotary International lies in its ability to evolve with a changing world, and embracing LGBTQ+ inclusion is an essential part of that evolution. By not actively welcoming LGBTQ+ individuals, Rotary misses out on new members and an opportunity to lead on issues of social justice.

In an effort to start repairing and rebuilding our relationship with the LGBTQ+ community, Vegas Verde Rotary Club and Rotary Club of Las Vegas/Red Rock teamed up to man a booth at Las Vegas Pride Fest.



## INTERACT NEWS

### Azusa High School Interact Club Success

*By Marilyn Grinsdale, Azusa Rotary*

The Azusa High School Interact Club has achieved a remarkable milestone—100 members! In fact, the club has grown so large, they now meet in the school gymnasium, as there are no classrooms big enough to hold them.

Club advisor and faculty member Christopher Fragoso praised club leaders saying, "In all my years as the club advisor, Interact leadership teams have been determined and passionate about volunteering to help the community."