

# 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

January 9th  
[Ontario-Montclair Students of the Month](#)

January 10th  
[Lancaster Sunrise School District Food Distribution](#)

January 10th  
[LV After Hours - Holiday Party](#)

January 14th  
[LV-Summerlin Fireside Chat](#)

January 14th  
[DG Official Visit - East Los Angeles](#)

January 15th  
[LV Summerlin: Just One Project - Grocery Packing & Stocking](#)

January 15th  
[Membership Committee \(Zoom\) Growing Membership](#)

January 15th  
[Growing Club Membership](#)

January 17th  
[President's Advance 2025](#)

January 18th  
[LV After Hours - Just One](#)

## January 2025

### INSIDE THIS EDITION

**District Governor's Message**

**District Program Deadlines (Peace Conference, RLI and President's Advance)**

**Club Highlights**

## Happy New Year!



Dear District 5300 Rotarians,

As we step into 2025 and the second half of the Rotary year, I hope you'll take a moment to reflect on all you and your fellow Rotarians have accomplished in the last six months. From impactful service projects to inspiring fellowship events, you have truly embodied this year's theme, "The Magic of Rotary."

You have made a difference in countless ways by building sustainable solutions for local and global challenges, by mentoring the next generation of leaders, and by fostering peace through community connections. Highlights include your successful food drives, clothing for children in need, restoration of parks, youth programs like Teen Leadership Camp and the growth of Interact clubs that inspire students to embrace service as a cornerstone of leadership.

Looking ahead at the remaining six months of our Rotary year, one might be tempted to see it as being "downhill from here." I hope we don't. Rather, I hope each of us will see it as six months filled with opportunities to build on our momentum. Your club's programs and the district's upcoming initiatives, such as Presidents Advance, RYLA, Dan Stover Music Contest, 4-Way Test Speech Contest, Hensel Ethics Essay Contest, the Friendship Exchange to India, Corazon Super Build, District Assembly, District Conference, and the District Awards Event/Foundation Dinner, all offer fresh avenues for engagement and impact. Let's challenge ourselves to finish the year strongly by inviting new members to join us, embracing innovation and relevance in our projects, and by continuing to make service above self our guiding principle.

Together we can achieve even more in 2025. Thank you for your commitment, energy, and passion for Rotary's mission. Let's keep demonstrating the "Magic of Rotary" one project at a time.

Yours in Rotary,  
DG Mike

**2025 Peace Conference January 25 -- Register Now!**

Project Food Dist w/Summerlin Ro  
 January 22nd  
San Dimas: Teacher Mini Grant Presentations  
 January 24th  
Lancaster School District Food Distribution  
 January 25th  
LV Summerlin: Just One Pop Up Project  
 January 25th  
LV Summerlin: Battery Recycling Drive  
 January 28th  
LV Summerlin: It's Time to Mingle & CPR Training  
 January 28th  
Green Valley: Spread the Word Nevada Book Cleaning  
 January 28th  
District Leadership Zoom Meeting  
 January 29th  
LV Southwest - Feed the Homeless  
 January 29th  
AG On Line Zoom Meeting  
 January 29th  
LV After Hours Membership Drive  
 January 30th  
Las Vegas Rotary 813 - 4 Way Speech Contest  
 February 1st  
RLI - Nevada - Part I, II  
 February 3rd  
Growing Club Membership  
 February 4th  
Green Valley: Meet the Artist Reception/Fundraiser  
 February 11th  
LV Southwest - Happy Feet  
 February 11th  
LV Southwest: Puerto Vallarta International Water Filter Project  
 February 12th  
LV After Hours/DT Rotary - Project 150 Food Drive  
 February 13th  
Ontario-Montclair Students of the Month

Peacemaker of the Year Award  
 Art for Peace Contest

Rotary District 5300 Rotary District 5330  
**GARBIS DER-YEGHIAN  
 35TH ANNUAL  
 PEACE  
 Conference**



**Saturday, January 25, 2025**  
 Registration Check-in/Continental Breakfast 8:00 a.m.  
**Conference Begins Promptly at 9:00 a.m. –12:00 p.m.**  
 Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum  
 18001 Yorba Linda Blvd, Yorba Linda, CA

**Keynote Speaker:**  
**Helen Peacock**

Rotary Action Group for Peace Board Member  
 Chair of Organizing Committee Ending War  
 101 Founder of Pivot2Peace  
 Positive Peace Ambassador for the Institute of Economics and Peace and Justice Network  
 Chapter Coordinator for World BEYOND War  
 Distinguished peace advocate and speaker



**Engaging Panel of Expert Panelists:**



**Helen Peacock**  
 Our distinguished Keynote Speaker



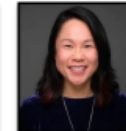
**Joe "Peppy" Sciarra**  
 Decorated World War II Army Veteran  
 66 year Rotarian



**Paulette Britton**  
 Founder of Autism Legacy Fund  
 Rotarian and Speaker



**NJ Yazon**  
 Marketing professional  
 NAMI volunteer



**Jennie Liang**  
 Student Engagement Manager—Child Mind Institute's Youth Mental Health Academy



**Lee MacNaughton**  
 ASU Student  
 NAMI Volunteer and Intern

**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN**  
 (includes continental breakfast and a museum tour)  
**Early bird rates:**  
 Adults: \$45 (\$50 at the door)  
 Students: \$20 (\$25 at the door)  
 To **REGISTER** and for more information, visit the event website at:  
<http://district5300.org/peace-conference/>

Scan for Event Page and Registration



Rotary District 5300  
 District Governor  
**Michael Driebe**



Rotary District 5330  
 District Governor  
**Judy Zulfiqar**



Conference Chair and Emcee  
 Rotary District 5330  
 Past District Governor  
**Jamie Zinn**

Multi-District Event

**RLI and the Hoover Dam**



**LEARN TO BE A BETTER ROTARIAN AND ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE HOOVER DAM**

On **Saturday, February 1**, we'll be holding Rotary Leadership Institute Parts I, and II, from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. in **Boulder City, Nevada**. Afterward, participants have the option to join us for some social time when we learn about the fascinating history of the Hoover Dam.

To register, go to the district calendar on dacdb or click the link below:  
<https://Registrations.DACdb.com/Register/index.cfm?>

[EventID=77791529&NoCaptcha](#)

Don't miss out!

Dennis Franklin



## New Format for Presidents' Advance

*By Luanne Arredondo, Assisting Linda Bertuzzi, Chair President's Advance*

We trust that the holidays have been wonderful and will continue to enhance our movement into 2025! In just a few short weeks, the traditional Presidents Advance weekend will ensue. However, it is NOT a traditional Advance weekend. This year we have ALL levels of Rotary participating and are eager to hear what YOU have to say. As Rotarians, we do not operate in a vacuum or a silo; we work with members at all stages in their Rotary journey. As such, we created a weekend that allows ALL Rotarians to help kick off the Advance and help close the Advance for their Elects and their Presidents. Like the subject line reads: YOUR VOICE MATTERS.

The Advance is at the Irvine Marriott, January 17 – 19. On Friday night, Nora Zei, General Manager & Chief Participant Experience Officer for Rotary International, will open the weekend. As a Club President herself, she understands the importance of all Rotarians having a say in the direction of Rotary and will be taking notes on your feedback, comments, and ideas. She will then take those thoughts back to Evanston and her team to help them plan the participant's experience in the year ahead. This is your chance to help kick off the weekend for your Club Elect and Club President, while also having your ideas and thoughts go directly back to the planning teams at Rotary International. Truly unprecedented. Let's fill the room and show them the District 5300 pride in the work we do in our local communities (and around the world) and share what we need as we continue to move forward.

On Saturday, the Presidents and the Elects will be able to work directly with the Zone 26 Team and their classmates around the District to enhance the strength of their clubs and find resources and ideas on gaps they would like to fill.

Saturday night we invite you back to hear World Renowned Influencer Patrick Galvin. This is a real treat as the first 100 in attendance will get a free signed copy of his book, *The Trusted Way*.

This presentation is a sneak peek preview of what the incoming Governors from around the World will hear in February at their International Assembly. Again, this is unprecedented access to world-class speakers outside the International Convention. He will be taking your engaged interaction and using it as he moves forward to inspire and unite the incoming class of Governors.

Please use the link below to register as a GUEST for the Friday night and Saturday night dinners - help us fill the room so that we may continue to expand our impact at all levels of Rotary, in our communities, and within the organization.

 [Register NOW](#) for **President's Advance 2025**

## CLUB HIGHLIGHTS

### Global Grant Scholar

*By William Payne, Dist 5300 Global Grant Scholar Chair*

The following comes from the Altadena Club, presenting Zia Saylor, one of four Global Grant scholars, who was a recent speaker. She is currently studying abroad and shared the impact the experience is having on her life and the world!

Zia's Global Grant Scholarship was sponsored by the Altadena Rotary Club for the 2024-2026 academic years. She is currently pursuing her PhD in Social Policy from the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom. Her research focuses on anti-poverty policy, specifically within South Africa, marking a continuation of research she has conducted and published since her undergraduate years at Williams College. She received her Master of Science in



Public Policy through a Fulbright Scholarship (also for the University of Bristol) and hopes to use her education to improve the research on and policies around improving access to opportunities for others, particularly along gendered lines of inequality.

For her PhD work, the University of Bristol has awarded her a full-tuition scholarship over the next two years. The Global Grant Scholarship, \$31,000, is paying for her living expenses (housing, food, local transportation), travel, miscellaneous school-related expenses and miscellaneous personal expenses.

She has worked in policy engagement in California, Indiana, and Massachusetts in addition to her international research. She attended elementary and high school in Pasadena and when not at the university, still lives at home in Pasadena with her mom, Dora. In her free time, she enjoys hiking with her border collies in Eaton Canyon and reading.

## Alhambra and Monterey Park: Ayla Jefferson PBS SoCal Local Hero

*By Ayla Jefferson, President Alhambra and Monterey Park Rotary*

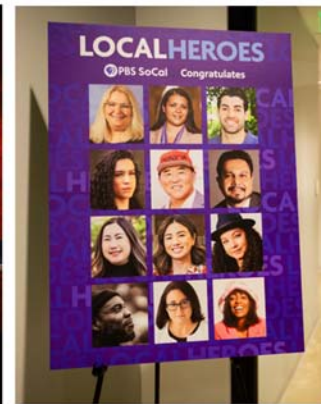
I am deeply honored to have been named a Local Hero nominee by PBS SoCal for 2024. This recognition reflects the incredible work we do together as Rotarians to make a positive impact in our communities. You can learn more about this recognition here: [PBS SoCal - Local Hero Ayla Jefferson](#).



As President of the Rotary Club of Alhambra and Monterey Park, I've been fortunate to work alongside passionate and dedicated members to support families, mentor youth, and strengthen our community. None of this would be possible without the collective efforts of our club members, who inspire me every day with their commitment to "Service Above Self."

This year's honorees included two exceptional educators, whose work reminds us of the power of education to change lives and create opportunities. It's inspiring to see how much good can come from working together for a common purpose.

This recognition from PBS SoCal isn't just about me—it's about all of us and the incredible work we do as Rotarians. It's a reminder of the power we have when we come together with purpose and heart. I'm excited about everything we'll achieve together in the coming years as we continue to make a difference, one project at a time.



## Altadena RC stays busy in December

*by Maricela Viramontes, Club President*

December is usually a busy month for our club. This year was no exception. In fact, we participated in five service projects, two fellowship projects, three club meetings and still found time to help connect Santa Claus to a few thousand children in our community. The last project for 2024 was decorating of our Rotary Float. What a special treat that was.

This month, our club presented two new members (a gain of seven for the year so far). We have another four possible members who are considering becoming Rotarians. We believe that the increased interest in membership has been because of our visibility in the community over the last three years since COVID. Our partnership with LA County Parks and Recreation Department in bringing concerts during the Saturdays in the summer at Farnsworth Park Amphitheater has also helped with recruiting possible members.



## Antelope District Grant Projects in December

### Antelope District Grant Projects in December

By Joshua Konrad, President, Antelope Valley Club

The Rotary Club of the Antelope Valley has had a busy December. This month, we used a \$2,200 district grant to purchase 106 new winter jackets (from Macy's!) in all children's sizes and in multiple colors for those in need who attend Keppel Union School District schools living in the High Desert. We used a second district grant to send two children to the Teen Leadership Camp, and we have approved a second pair of children to attend our upcoming RYLA event. A third district grant for \$1000 was approved to support our local veterans who live in the Antelope Valley. We donated \$500 to the Rotary Club of San Marino for their most recent international project to support a public school in Tijuana, Mexico. Finally, we donated 25 new sleeping bags to the Rotary Club of South Pasadena as they help the homeless who live in Downtown Los Angeles. To celebrate these achievements, our club got together for our annual Christmas dinner. We are looking forward to what January 2025 has in store for us.



## Claremont's Engaged December

By Buff Wright, PP and Newsletter editor

This has been a busy holiday season for all at Claremont Rotary. After

a typical meeting on December 6, the next was a very well-attended Holiday Dinner on December 13. Junior and senior high Interactors and the Claremont Senior Bike Club joined members of the club to build 28 bikes on the 14th for deserving kids. The last meeting of the year on December 20 featured the talented Claremont High School Chamber Choir. We are very lucky to have such an award-winning group of carolers in our fair city, singing tunes from a variety of cultural traditions. Finally, we distributed the bikes, fitted the children with helmets and provided locks at our annual Bill's Bikes for Kids event on December 21, complete with a corny MC (Ron Coleman) telling holiday jokes, and local and school dignitaries.



In between events, we contributed to Inland Valley Hope Partners Adopt a Family Program, helping three families have a merrier Christmas. For the past many years, we have participated in this program, which encourages Rotarians and others to contribute gifts requested by local families in need. Children asked for toys, but most requests were for household necessities and clothes for the kids. Our effort was a success with all three families fully helped.



## Covina Rotary – Endless Smiles

*By Samantha Davis*

The 2024 "Endless Smiles" Christmas Event, Covina Rotary's biggest holiday celebration of the year, spreads joy and festive cheer to local children and their families. The event features snacks and drinks along with a variety of activities like take-home crafts, cookie decorating, and photo opportunities with Santa. To top it all off, each child has the special chance to visit the Christmas Toy Boutique and personally select a gift to take home. The International project: Mi Amigo Lector Elementary School is shown below.



Covina Rotary purchased books, teddy bears and blankets for an elementary school in Mexico to encourage the children to read and improve reading, comprehension and vocabulary. Each student receives time to read a book to their teddy bear while snuggling with a warm blanket.



## Green Valley Brings Christmas Joy to Disadvantaged Students

By Barbara Billitzer

On December 11, 2024, the Rotary Club of Green Valley shared the joy of Christmas with students at Robert L. Taylor Elementary School in Henderson. The Title 1 school serves 450 disadvantaged students in the Henderson community. The *Hoolihan's Christmas for Kids* event featured a visit with Santa and a gift bag filled with toys, books and sports equipment for every student. The community service event was named for Rotary member and local businessman, Jon Hoolihan, who was a philanthropist dedicated to helping disadvantaged children in Southern Nevada. After his passing in 2023, the Rotary Club of Green Valley created this annual event in his honor.

Mayor of Henderson Michelle Romero and other city officials were in attendance. And the Club acknowledged the generous contributions of its major donors, including the City of Henderson, Findlay Cadillac, Gold Casters Jewelry, Green Valley Grocery, Findlay Honda, Infusion Care, Spread the Word Nevada, TCB Global, Findlay Toyota, Shirtz, Logoz & Promoz, and Rotarian Don Havins, MD, JD.



## LV Southwest: Chet Buchanan's Remarkable Toy Drive

By Keith Thomas, Las Vegas Southwest Rotary

At a recent meeting, our speaker was Chet Buchanan, host and creator of his eponymous radio show. He is also the brains behind the annual Chet Buchanan Show Toy Drive, where, for the past 25 years, he lives

and broadcasts live on top of a 30-foot scaffolding for 12 days straight to raise toys for thousands of Las Vegas children. Each year, from approximately December 5 through December 16, this iconic radio personality ascends his 30-foot scaffold to collect donations for HELP of Southern Nevada. The end of this year's drive marked 205 days of living on the scaffolding for Chet, totaling over six months.



This year he was able to fill 42 Coca-Cola trucks full of toys, 7,774 bikes and over \$802,000 donated in cash and gift cards, including a \$255,000 donation from one local business. These contributions are distributed to over 100 nonprofit organizations throughout the Las Vegas community.

After the meeting, where he presented a lively account of the many demonstrations of selflessness and compassion from the citizens of Las Vegas, Southwest Rotary President Bruce MacKenzie was pleased to help kick-off his campaign this year with a \$2,500 contribution.

In keeping with our focus on youth, we also recently provided a \$1,000 grant to a local special education teacher to buy books for his students. His focus is to make sure they have access to books, instead of spending all day on electronic devices.

## Pomona Rotary – Blankets for Veterans

*By Josh Landis, Pomona Rotary President*

On December 16, Pomona Rotarians worked with a local nonprofit to make blankets for veterans in the community. Thunder Lightning; and Peace is focused on a mission to help veterans with trauma through events, projects, and community support. During the event, Rotarians helped make 28 blankets that will be added to the 50 blankets from last month. For more information about this program, please visit [www.thundarlp.org](http://www.thundarlp.org).



## LV After Hours: TLC - A Rotary Moment and Beyond!

*LV After Hours: TLC - A Rotary Moment and Beyond!*  
*by Jeremy Bruner, Las Vegas After Hours Rotary Club*

About 14 months ago, I officially became a member of the Las Vegas After Hours Rotary Club (*pound for pound, the BEST club in Las Vegas*). Not long after, I found out about an annual event called Teen Leadership Camp, held each December in the San Gabriel mountains near Big Bear Lake. I went back and forth about committing to a weekend away with a bunch of 8th graders, but figured my experience working with kids would make me a good fit. If you can help, you should help, right? Those are words I live by and so I decided to sign up as a Rotarian Facilitator. I had an amazing weekend and knew after the first few hours that I'd be back again and again.

That weekend was followed by RYLA for high school juniors in March. I was a facilitator again and had another amazing experience. At the end of the weekend, the incoming chair for the next TLC asked if I would be willing to get involved on the planning committee. This led to being a Senior Counselors coordinator for this year's TLC. Besides the Rotarian helpers, we also bring up a group of seniors in high school to help run things with the younger kids. These counselors are often past attendees of earlier camps. After interviewing over 30 qualified candidates, I narrowed it down to 14. Unfortunately one had to drop at the last minute so we had a team of 13 phenomenal kids. These are the types of students who make you confident in our collective future. It was a joy getting to help prepare them and seeing them execute everything to a tee. The best part is that we get to come together again this March to bring things full circle as these former RYLA campers become the leaders. For as long as I'm involved with these camps, and that will be a long time, they will always be my first crew and the one I measure all others against. I love these kids.





## San Marino Teen Leaders “Take Over” a Rotary Club Meeting

*By William L. Payne, Public Image Committee Chair San Marino*

Seventeen San Marino 8<sup>th</sup> grade students recently attended the Rotary Teen Leadership Camp in the San Bernardino Mountains with 220 other leaders from schools in Southern California and Las Vegas. The leadership camp offers students the chance to build essential life skills among peers and develop leadership qualities that will serve them throughout their lives.

Upon returning from the weekend camp, the students attended a Rotary Club meeting where they “demoted” club president Paul Brassard and ran the Rotary meeting, including leading the pledge of allegiance, welcoming guests, and making announcements before giving individual reports on their camp experience. Many parents were in attendance to watch their children address the Rotary Club.



## Vegas Verde Year-End Message to Fellow Rotarians

*By Gino Reyes, President Vegas Verde Rotary Club*

As we close this year and prepare for the next, let us reflect on all that we've accomplished and the opportunities that lie ahead. Rotary's legacy is built on service, fellowship, and a shared commitment to making the world a better place. But as the world evolves, so must we.

Change is not something to fear; it's an opportunity to grow. As Rotarians, we must embrace change with open minds and bold hearts. Thinking outside the box, challenging traditions, and being leaders of innovation are the keys to keeping Rotary vibrant, relevant, and impactful.

Our strength lies in our diversity. Each member brings a unique perspective, talent, and passion that enriches our clubs and fuels our mission. Let us celebrate and value these differences, ensuring every voice is heard and every member feels they belong. By fostering a culture of inclusion, we empower our organization to achieve even greater heights.

The future of Rotary is bright. Together, we can shape it by embracing new ideas, championing equity, and leading change in our communities and beyond. As we step into the new year, let us be inspired, united, and excited about what lies ahead. Rotary's best days are still to come!

Together, We Inspire!!!

## West Covina Rotary Thanksgiving Baskets

By Alicia Mardini, West Covina

Thanks to all who made the West Covina Rotary Thanksgiving Basket project a success. Your generosity gave hope and smiles to many families that seldom find themselves in such state of mind.

In addition to the Thanksgiving items, providing the apples and avocados made it over the top (cash is like magic).

To those who brought family members, please continue doing so, it makes such a difference in the spirit of the event. And of course, my gratitude to the high schools that collected the can goods and to the students that came to help us out with the baskets.

You all rock!!

