

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Alma Cota de Yanez will be the luncheon keynote speaker on Friday, October 18th at 12:00 PM. Attendees must purchase a luncheon ticket.

Alma Cota de Yanez, born in Ciudad Obregón, Sonora, and graduated with a degree in Business Administration from the Technological Institute of Monterrey (ITESM). Alma began working with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) as a part time translator for Save the Children during her university studies.

Since January of 2003, Alma has served as Executive Director for Fundación del Empresariado Sonorense AC, Nogales Chapter (FESAC). Since taking charge of this position Alma has overseen FESAC, becoming the local leader in mobilizing resources and education in philanthropy for donors (individual and corporate), government agencies and NGOs. FESAC works to promote civil society, philanthropy, culture and a NGO network.

As a result of this work, FESAC has helped Nogales, Sonora to work towards the objective of improving the quality of community life. FESAC works in close partnership with the Border Community Alliance in Arizona on a variety of cross border programs.



Evan Burrell will be the dinner keynote speaker on Friday, October 18 at 6:00 PM. Attendees must purchase a dinner ticket.

Evan Burrell is a whirlwind of energy in the Rotary family, leaving an indelible mark for the past 25 years. As a dynamic past president of two Rotary clubs and an enthusiastic member of Greenhills Maitland Rotary, Evan's dedication knows no bounds. Now stepping into the role of District Governor Elect for D9660, his passion for Rotary is unstoppable.

Evan is a changemaker and his influence stretches far beyond local clubs. With a history on the RI Communications Committee and as the past Assistant Rotary Public Image Coordinator for all of Australia, he's been a key player in shaping Rotary's global image. His infectious mantra, "Let's have fun in Rotary," resonates as he shares his vibrant Rotary journey across social media. His "Changemaker Evan Burrell" Facebook page boasts over 30,000 fans, eagerly engaging with his thought-provoking daily posts.

But Evan's talents don't stop at Rotary. He's a Digital Media Consultant for the regional Rotary Down Under magazine, runs his own digital marketing and branding consultancy, and even drives buses! In his personal life, Evan is an actor and a die-hard Superman fan, bringing a superhero's energy and enthusiasm to everything he does. Evan Burrell truly embodies the spirit of Rotary, making waves and inspiring change wherever he goes.



Albert Hernandez will be one of the breakfast keynote speaker on Saturday, October 19 at 8:30 AM. Attendees must purchase a breakfast ticket.

District 5280 Governor Albert Hernandez is no stranger to hard work and perseverance. Having grown up in a low-income community, number five of eleven brothers and sisters, and in a single parent household he had to take on many responsibilities at an early age.

Having attended Camp RYLA in 2002 as a high school junior he shares that he will always remember that weekend as the moment he realized he had something inside him to help others in need. He was blown away that 40 Rotarians would volunteer their weekend to help students find their leadership potential. The following year he returned to RYLA as a counselor and wanted to give students the same experience he was fortunate enough to receive.

In 2005, at the age of 19, Albert was invited to join the Rotary family. He became a proud member of the Rotary Club of Burbank Noon where he remains active. Albert works full-time as the Chief Executive Officer of Home Again Los Angeles, an organization he has dedicated the last nine years of his life to building. Home Again Los Angeles is a non-profit homeless service agency committed to helping homeless families with children to move into shelter and work towards securing permanent housing.



Michael Rabara will be one of the breakfast keynote speaker on Saturday, October 19 at 8:30 AM. Attendees must purchase a breakfast ticket.

District 5230 Governor Michael Rabara, a lifelong resident of Fresno is a graduate of Duncan Polytechnical High School and attendee of the Rotary District 5230 Camp Royal Alumni 96'. He is a graduate of the Cypress College School of Mortuary Science in southern California and obtained Political Science degrees from both Fresno City College and California State University Fresno. Currently, Michael is the Vice President of Chapel of the Light Funeral Home and Cemetery where he has established a reputation as a distinguished funeral home executive. He oversees the company's 12 funeral homes and cemeteries that span from the valley up to the wine country.

Michael enjoys spending time in married life with his husband Rudy and their son, Stanton. A dedicated family man, Michael strives to set an example for their son so that he can become a respectful, smart and giving little human. In his spare time, Michael enjoys a great glass of wine, playing golf, flying and just enjoying life.

Michael is a member of many civic organizations. He has served as a Past President of the Rotary Club of North Fresno, is a Benefactor, Major Donor, member of the Paul Harris Society and Polio Plus Society. He also serves as Chairman of the Finance Council for Saint John's Cathedral Diocese of Fresno, Chairman of the City of Fresno Implementation Planning Committee. Michael also is a board of director and past two-term President of the Central Valley Funeral Directors Association. In 2005, Michael was awarded the "California Young Funeral Director of the Year" award at their annual convention and also honored for his work in the funeral industry by the International Cemetery Cremation and Funeral Association.



Alan Havir will be the luncheon keynote speaker on Saturday, October 19th at 12:00 PM. Attendees must purchase a luncheon ticket.

Alan Havir has been an independent financial planner for over 25 years; for most of that time he has worked with CASCO Financial Group in a number of ways. He holds an M.A. in Communications, from Loyola Marymount University; a B.A. in Theatre/Business, from Arizona State University; as well as multiple securities and insurances licenses.

Alan formally merged his practice into CASCO in 2020. His goal is to “Lift Others and Make a Difference.” He enjoys helping clients find their unique pathway to financial success.

Alan is notably active in the community. He is the past District Governor for Rotary International District 5495 and past President of Upward Foundation, which brings services to medically fragile children. He is also the past Cycling Sports Director for the California Special Olympics and founder of the cycling venue. He is a former U.S. Cycling Federation Coach, helping beginning and intermediate cycling enthusiasts.

He and his wife Sandy live in Scottsdale and enjoy spending time with their five daughters and nine grandchildren. They enjoy an annual ski vacation, year-round road cycling, cooking and entertaining in their home with family and friends. He also has a long history in the music industry and currently enjoys performing with his daughter Aiyana.