

Rotary

District 5080



PEOPLE OF ACTION

Welcome to District 5080

Rotary

District 5080



Global Peacebuilder District

District 5080, located in Southeast British Columbia, Eastern Washington, and Northern Idaho, joins a global network of neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who take action to create lasting change. We use our passion, energy, and intelligence to take action on sustainable projects, from literacy and peace to water and health (**and so much more!**), we are always working to better our world, and we stay committed to the end.

Rotarians believe in promoting integrity, and advancing world understanding, goodwill, and peace through its fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.

Fulfill your passion and get involved!

A message from our District Governor

In February, I concluded my club visits. I want to thank all the Rotary members in District 5080 for their kind and generous hospitality and the welcome you gave Dorothy and me.

I came to realize that clubs have different cultures, yet all are effective at having an impact on their communities, and, very often, around the world.

I also came to realize that we have an incredible group of individual Rotarians within our district who are passionate about Rotary, or some aspect of Rotary. This is so encouraging, and I would like to suggest that we want to strengthen our District Committees with several of these people. I know we have amazing Rotarians in district roles now, but we need to have a succession plan in place to train new leaders for the coming years.

Please let me know if you have an interest in serving on a District Committee.

You will hear more about leadership development opportunities in the weeks and months to come. Remember R.I. President Stephanie Urchick's maxim: "Life is more exciting on the other side of YES".

Speaking of opportunities, you will have received an invitation from me (through Conference Registrar Kees van der Pol, PDG) to attend the District Conference in Nelson, B.C. on May 2nd & 3rd. Our conference committee is very busy putting the final touches on this event, and we hope you will come and join us. If you have not been to Nelson previously, May is a delightful time to visit, as the cherry blossoms should be in full bloom and you will have a chance to explore our beautiful city.

My last visit was to my home club, Nelson Day Break.



I also came to realize that we have an incredible group of individual Rotarians within our district who are passionate about Rotary, or some aspect of Rotary. This is so encouraging, and I would like to suggest that we want to strengthen our District Committees with several of these people. I know we have amazing Rotarians in district roles now, but we need to have a succession plan in place to train new leaders for the coming years. Please let me know if you have an interest in serving on a District Committee. [Read More](#)

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District and Rotary Foundation Award Opportunities

By Debi G Dockins on Saturday, March 1, 2025



Deadline is near! Don't wait any longer!

Our District Conference is coming May 1-4 in beautiful Nelson, B.C. and it provides us with an opportunity to shine a Rotary light on those clubs and individuals that go above and beyond to make a difference.

Think of a club that stretched a bit this past year – was it yours? Who in your club always goes above and beyond? Could they be our next Rotarian of the Year? Know anybody who has lived a lifetime of service in Rotary? (Could this be you? Nominate yourself!) There is recognition for all of this

and more!

Please check out the opportunities below to recognize the dynamic clubs and individuals who embody "Service Above Self." Maybe someone has already popped into your head as you read this.

[Read More](#)

SPRING ASSEMBLY REMINDERS – MARCH 22 – SPOKANE VALLEY

By Doreen Fox Kelsey

The District Spring Assembly is the primary training event for club and district leaders as well as new and seasoned Rotarians. It's also the occasion when club presidents-elect vote on the proposed district budget for the coming program year. The Annual District Membership Seminar is combined with this event.

Register from this link: [Spring Assembly Registration](#). The location is Spokane Valley Tech, 115 S. University Road, Spokane Valley, Washington. The date is March 22. Doors open at 9:00 a.m., and the sessions conclude at 2:30 p.m. when the door prize drawings are held. Did I say door prizes?!

Presidents-Elect should plan to attend this meeting or appoint a delegate to vote on the budget. This will also be the occasion to **pick up your 2025-2026 Rotary Theme Banners.** [Read More](#)

Rotary International Convention

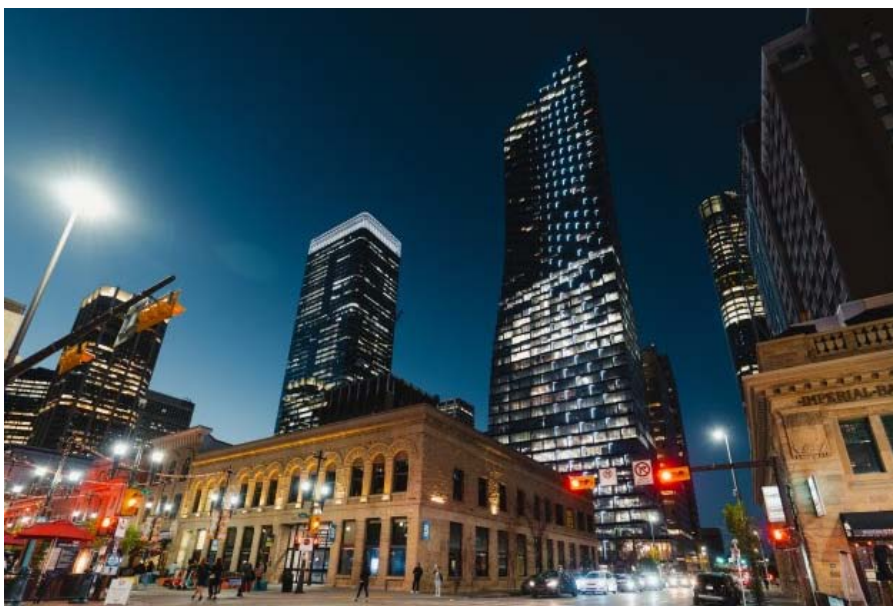


Photo: Roam Creative

CONVENTION NEWS - JANUARY

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Hello to everyone who has registered for the 2025 Rotary International Convention! We look forward to gathering with you 21-25 June in Calgary, Canada.

Hotels

The demand for lodging in Calgary is high, and rooms are selling fast. If you don't find a room in the location you want in Rotary's official block, you can explore [hotels that aren't part of our block](#) through the aRes Travel booking engine. Book rooms online or call +1-619-546-7263 for live assistance. **Just note that Rotary and Maritz, Rotary's official housing partner, do not manage aRes Travel reservations or inquiries.**

New on [convention.rotary.org](#)

Have you booked your flight to Calgary yet? If not, be sure to use the discount codes from WestJet and Air Canada on our new [Airline Discounts page](#) when you do.

Do you want to know the lineup of speakers and entertainment at our general sessions? Visit the new [Speakers page](#) and check back often for updates!

Breakout sessions

You can choose from 70 breakout sessions that will inspire you, improve your skills, and help you discover **The Magic of Rotary** through projects, fundraising, inclusivity, and more. Join these engaging sessions Monday through Wednesday, 23-25 June, on topics such as:

- **Strengthening your club.** Learn strategies for keeping members engaged, encouraging greater diversity in your membership, and inspiring people to get involved in Rotary.
- **Connecting and taking action.** Meet members who are making a difference in addressing the world's biggest challenges, and find out how you can help.
- **Using Rotary's Action Plan.** Discover how the Action Plan can improve the health of your club or district.

More information will be posted on the [Breakout Sessions page](#) when it's available.

House of Friendship

The House of Friendship exhibit hall is the ultimate destination for attendees to gather, network, and learn about your product, program, or service. The [application to exhibit in the House of Friendship](#) at the 2025 Rotary International Convention is now available. Rotary and non-Rotary groups are welcome to secure booth space.

Applications will be accepted until 28 February. If you have questions, write to exhibitor@rotary.org.

[Read More](#)

Join us for our Epic Day of Service

I have proudly taken on the roll as the District 5080 Epic Day of Service Champion.

To attend the National Epic Day of Service call, you will need to **open the attached flyer and register**.

To date, I have heard from the following D5080 Clubs desire to participate in the 2025 Epic Day of Service event in May 2025:

Colfax; Spokane Rotary North; Castlegar; Colville; Pullman

Bonnars Ferry; Nelson; Christina Lake have expressed an interest but no firm commitment yet. [Read More](#)

Ryla is coming up

This letter is sent to increase the reach and promise of District 5080 RYLA.

Times have changed and the call to help new promising leaders has never been more necessary or important. Unlocking the leadership potential in our youth and empowering them to lead others to service, while also providing the Values and Principles of Rotary is so needed locally and around the world.

District 5080 RYLA is arguably the longest and most successful program our district's Rotary Clubs have collectively supported. For 47 years, we have opened the avenues of possibility for an estimated 2,000 emerging leaders. We have transformed lives and opened doors of possibility for those attending and all those they go on to lead. We have many Rotarians today that first found the light that Rotary shares by attending RYLA. So, it is a great recruiting opportunity as well.

There are several areas where your support or the support of partnering sponsors would help ensure we continue RYLA's legacy of success.

- The cost of the camp has grown as the cost of venue and food increases. Only a few years ago we could run our 7-day camp including food and lodging for about \$20,000 (for staff and 50 attendees). That cost is now double for the same number of attendees.

[Read More](#)

**The Season for
Nonviolence marks the 64
days between the**



anniversaries of the deaths of Mohandas Gandhi on January 30 and Martin Luther King Jr. on April 4.

It is celebrated around the world as a time to study and practice nonviolence and as a time to support each other and the planet by practicing nonviolence in thought, communication, and action. Practicing nonviolence involves a conscious effort to understand and manage our reactions. It's about recognizing our triggers and learning to stop and breathe, thus allowing us to respond in a more loving and accepting way.

If we follow our **thought** patterns throughout the day, we find ourselves criticizing others. We have mental tirades against many people throughout the day. We think the worst even of those we love the most - - and especially ourselves! In this divisive time, we need to remind ourselves that we need each other to be our best selves, which is based on support and love.

[Read More](#)

Sandpoint Rotary Invests in Education with the Help of Rotary Foundation District Grants

By Nancy Lewis

Sandpoint Rotary Invests in Education with the Help of Rotary Foundation District Grants

Over the past two years Sandpoint Rotary Club has participated in Rotary Foundation District Grants improving the conditions of a small Mexican community's rural high school. The school has been in existence for nine years; is situated on donated land; is state-accredited; and is the only high school in an approximate 10-square-mile area, located at the end of a two-mile-long dirt road. For years, classes were held under trees or in available locations. Buildings were started about four years ago through donations and volunteer labor of a parent's group.



Rotary projects are initiated by the community and coordinated with the Rotary Club of Ixtapa. In Spring 2023, a school administrator asked for help with bathrooms and a drainage issue. Upon inspection, it was evident the school's needs were beyond the ability of the club. Local Rotarians organized visits with officials from the greater municipality and a non-profit organization. It was agreed this institution was the neediest in the area. Within a few months, the school buildings were completed, and a previously dirt-floor, roofless-space was turned into a classroom for a computer lab.

[Read More](#)

Cranbrook Sunrise Pivots to Fund School Safety Shelter

By Doreen Fox Kelsey

Sometimes, the best-laid plans aren't enough to ensure successful completion of a project. When the Rotary Club of



Cranbrook Sunrise received a Rotary Foundation District Grant to renovate a bomb shelter as a classroom, they were unable to complete the project within the required timeframe and had to return funds to the Rotary Foundation. Not to be defeated, they raised funds from other sources and

donors and enlisted the support of Christina Lake Rotarian Geoff Glenn, a retired Peace Corps volunteer who served in Ukraine and is now residing in Ukraine. Geoff has overseen several Rotary Foundation-funded projects in Ukraine on behalf of the District and his Rotary Club. His expertise and connections to cooperating organizations in Ukraine have been invaluable.

The Chkalov School Safety Shelter Project began with a noble goal: to renovate and make functional a school shelter in the community of Chkalov, Chuguyiv (Chuhuiv) District of Kharkiv, Ukraine. This project was originally driven by a collaborative effort between the Rotary Club of Cranbrook Sunrise in Canada and the Rotary Club of Kharkiv New Level in Ukraine. The objective of the project was to enable students to return to face-to-face learning in a safe environment, especially critical given the ongoing war in the region.

[Read More](#)

Peace is Possible and Starts with Us

A Message from Director Dan Himelspach

I recently attended the 2025 Presidential Peace Conference in Istanbul for the dedication of the newest Rotary Peace Center. 1,000+ Rotarians and supporters gathered to support the prospect that there can be peace in the world. Peace is possible and the peace cycle starts with the individual were common themes. It was also acknowledged that seldom has the world been more polarized. It was an incredible event. [Read More](#)



Rotary-Carter School Collaboration for Peace

By Nancy Jean Milton

In March 2024, Rotary International signed a twelve-month pilot Memorandum of Understanding to explore a collaboration between Rotary and the Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution (The Carter School). This pilot program is exploring potential peace initiatives drawing on the expertise of the Carter School and the global outreach of the Rotary network.

Four Pillars
of the
Rotary-Carter School Collaboration for Peace



<https://carterschool.gmu.edu/research-impact/rotary-carter-school-collaboration-peace>

[Read More](#)

Grand Forks Peace Gathering

By Maxine A Ruzicka



[Read More](#)

Walla Walla Peace Gathering

By Nancy Jean Milton

2nd Annual Walla Walla Valley Regional Peace Conference



“Our Piece of Global Peace”

Saturday, April 12, 1 to 5 pm
209 E Birch St, Walla Walla

“The Parlor” at Pioneer United Methodist Church

[Read More](#)

2025 Zone Institute Albuquerque



Experience the Magic!

Join us in Albuquerque, New Mexico, for the **2025 Big West Rotary Institute and Education Week**, where **leadership, inspiration, and connection**. come together.

This year's event features a special **World Polio Day** celebration with **Ramesh Ferris**, a polio survivor and global End Polio advocate. His incredible journey - from hand-cycling across Canada to working with world leaders - highlights Rotary's fight to eradicate polio.

[Read More](#)

Rotary Creates Artificial Reef in Mexico

If you or your Rotary Club just donated \$1 to the Rotary Foundation – this is YOUR project too!

https://rotary5495.org/Stories/rotary-club-of-prescott-participates-in-the-sinking-of-the-suchiate-near-guaymas?utm_source=brevvo&utm_campaign=Zone%20202627%20Newsletter%20March%202025&utm_medium=email Thanks to the dedication of Rotarians and the Rotary Foundation, a bold environmental project is making waves in San Carlos, Sonora, Mexico! After two years of collaboration with the Mexican government and Navy, the decommissioned Navy ship Suchiate was sunk to create an artificial reef, expanding marine biodiversity and protecting the ocean's "lungs."

[Read More](#)

Building Membership with Satellite Clubs

The satellite club initiative grew out of a need to accommodate quality individuals in our communities who have an interest in Rotary, but cannot join a "traditional" Rotary club due to financial, scheduling or other constraints. [Read More](#)

2025 World Immunization Week

Think of a child.
Not someone you know.
Someone you'll probably never meet.
Picture them on the other side of the world, somewhere you've never been.
You almost certainly share one of Rotary's greatest accomplishments.
Delivering to that child the polio vaccine. [Read More](#)



International Service Projects Needing Partners or Funding

By Doreen Fox Kelsey

International Service Projects Needing Partners or Funding

Is your Rotary Club looking for an international service project to fund with a Rotary Foundation District or Global Grant? The following projects are needing partners and/or funding from clubs:

- Vocational Training Team (global grant) to bring prosthetists to Mayo Clinic from Ukraine to improve prosthetics design for injured civilians and soldiers
- Small-scale water project in Nigeria (district grant)
- Social development in rural Bangladesh focused on health care and education (district grant or donations)
- School for deaf girls in Pakistan (global grant)
- School equipment and supplies in Serbia/Montenegro (global grant)
- Rural development projects in Nepal (global or district grant)
- Also exploring humanitarian relief opportunities in Goma, DRC and community development projects in Uganda.

We are seeking local and international service projects to share with other clubs in the District. If your club has a project needing partners or your club is seeking a project to support, please contact Doreen Kelsey, District Rotary Foundation Committee Chair at dfoxkelsey@hotmail.com.

Cassie Howder's Story

By Robert M. Carroll

It had been a particularly tough day for me at Mary Walker High School. The time was May of 2010. I walked into Wendy Peone's classroom. Wendy was just putting her room in order after a day of teaching. She had been the internal advisor of the Springdale Interact Club for just two weeks.

I said, "Wendy, I need help." I thought I had a new President for our Interact Club on board. "She just told me she won't be taking that role next school year because she wants to devote more time to her boyfriend. I just don't have another person in the wings. I need help. Who can I get who will do a good job?"

[Read More](#)

Rotary's response to the U.S.'s plan to withdraw from the WHO, USAID funding freeze

Rotary remains committed to eradicating polio, despite the U.S. decision to withdraw from the WHO, a key partner in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI). As a founding GPEI partner, Rotary has worked for decades with governments and organizations to reduce polio cases by 99.9% since 1988. The organization remains dedicated to protecting every child, even in the most remote and challenging regions. Rotary is confident that GPEI will continue to adapt, innovate, and ensure vaccine accessibility worldwide. Additionally, Rotary's collaboration with USAID has been affected by a stop-work order, impacting various projects, including the Hearts of Europe initiative. Rotary has informed those involved and is working on alternative funding solutions to support ongoing efforts. Despite these challenges, Rotary remains resolute in achieving a polio-free world. Having eradicated smallpox, humanity can now ensure polio becomes the second disease eliminated globally, fulfilling the long-standing promise of a healthier future for all.