

Rotary

District 5300



Betsy's Brilliance

By Elizabeth McDonough Barry on Friday, November 12, 2021



The holidays are officially upon us. Once Halloween rolls around, it's off to the races! Stores go into high gear!

What a blessing, though, that we as Rotarians have the ability to help others especially around the holidays - whether it be Thanksgiving dinners or shopping sprees for families in need.

Speaking of helping families, the District-wide food drive is coming up fast! Valentine's Day, 2022 at 2 p.m. is the big day for all of our respective clubs to make food donations to their food bank of choice. Our



Marketing/Brand Committee is working overtime designing our own marketing materials, flyers and press releases. Thank you! A special thanks to Grace Yang-Antonides from the San Marino Rotary Club. Through her business she designed the Food Box at the beginning of this article as well as flyers, press release, and a letter for Clubs in District 5300 and 5330 to use.

District 5330 is also partnering with us, so we will have at least 120 clubs from Pasadena, to the Inland Empire to Las Vegas all working to stock food pantries! Food pantries often report a reduction in food supplies after the holidays. With our big hearts, we are

going to help fix that!

Some clubs are partnering with other Rotary clubs, service clubs (begins with a "K"), Chambers of Commerce, Masons, Knights of Columbus, etc. or they are handling their drive by themselves - doesn't matter because it's all for a good cause! And, since this is a two District project, we will raise awareness for Rotary!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Vocational Service Program Enhances Membership

By DAVID CABRAL on Friday, November 12, 2021

In Chicago in 1905 four businessmen, led by attorney Paul Harris, got together for lunch to share friendship and to get to know each other personally and professionally. They enjoyed it so much, they decided to continue meeting, rotating their meetings among each business, and inviting others to join them. From those humble beginnings evolved what has become Rotary today. In District 5300, we are honoring those founders and carrying on the original business focus of the first Rotary Club by recognizing and honoring our members' businesses and professions through Vocational Service. As Rotary Clubs, we ask a lot of our members, both in time and in money. As the pace of business has increased over the years, and even more with the impact of COVID on businesses, many clubs have found it challenging to recruit new members, especially younger people starting their careers and juggling family responsibilities.



People are looking for value in their expenditures and time. One of the ways that clubs can give value to their members and offer value to prospective members is by helping those members personally grow and become more successful through the Avenue of Vocational Service. While Community Service, International Service and Youth Service are all outward facing to the community and to the world, in many ways, Vocational Service can be turned around 180 degrees and become an inward facing Service to our Members. There are many ways that clubs can do this with activities such as:

- Vocational Craft Talks
- member business sponsorships of newsletters and club activities
- club and district business directories
- mini professional development seminars open to members and the community and run by Rotarians

These are just a few ideas, there are many more that clubs can come up with.

Organize a business focused Vocational Service committee in your club that can promote your members' businesses and professions and create ways to make your members more successful and attract new members who will see more value in being a Rotarian.

Successful Prosperous Rotarians make a Successful Prosperous Rotary Club

If your club would like to talk about this more, or would like me to zoom in to one of your meetings to share ideas, please reach out to me.



Account Leaders

Elizabeth McDonough Barry
District Governor
Roger H. Gutierrez
District Gov-Elect
Michael L. Soden
District Gov-Nominee
Philip Gregory Jones
IPDG
Philip Miles
District Treasurer

Events

- November 17th [Volunteering with Project 150!](#)
- November 17th [Agassi Thanksgiving](#)
- November 19th [Clone-Breakfast with Books](#)
- November 20th [Ride to End Polio Fundraising Event](#)
- November 24th [Turkey Trot In-Person Registration](#)
- November 25th [Claremont Sunrise Turkey Trot 5K/1K Run/walk/fun run](#)
- December 2nd [Santa Clothes Protect](#)
- December 2nd [Santa Clothes](#)
- December 2nd [Santa Clothes - Ruby Thomas Elementary School](#)
- December 2nd [All Star Soccer Tournament](#)
- December 4th [Rotarians at Work: McMillian Elementary Rock-a-thon - December 4](#)
- December 5th [Rotary Club of Green Valley Christmas Party](#)
- December 8th [Club Holiday Party](#)
- December 9th [Opportunity Village Magical Forest](#)
- December 9th [Las Vegas Summerlin Holiday Party](#)
- December 9th [Las Vegas Southwest Holiday Party](#)
- December 11th [Salvation Army Bell Ringing - December 11](#)
- December 15th [Holiday Lunch at Robert Lunt Elementary](#)



Rotary Club of Lancaster assists a Rotary Club in the Philippines

By Celia A. Gray on Friday, November 12, 2021



The Rotary Club of Lancaster assisted the Rotary Club of Marikina Hilltop in the Philippines in a project to assist families affected with COVID. This project is called Adopt a Covid + Family and was created by the Marikina Hilltop Club in October of 2020 and will continue until this pandemic is over.

Lancaster Rotary Club member pictured, Godofrido Catarroja Jr (known as Cas) suggested this international project for our club and had a personal connection with the Marikina Hilltop Club. Cas was a member of Marikina Hilltop Club prior to moving to the United States and joining the Rotary Club of Lancaster.



The Adopt a Covid+ Family project helps support a family during the 14 -day quarantine period when the breadwinner is unable to work due to a family member being infected with Covid-19 illness and subsequent quarantine. The project identifies those needy families and assists them with food and necessities for the entire family

for the 14-day quarantine period.

The Rotary Club of Lancaster has donated \$560 US dollars to the Marikina Hilltop Club to add to their project. This donation will support 2 complete families for the quarantine period with food and necessities. The Marikina Hilltop Club was honored by their own District 3800 for this project that was the ♦Best Project for Disease Prevention and Treatment♦ .

If your club would also like to support the Marikina Hilltop Rotary Club, please contact Rotary Club President, Celia Gray at celia.a.gray@gmail.com for more information.

Submitted by Celia Gray, President
Rotary Club of Lancaster

Child Sex Trafficking: Are Your Kids at Risk?

By Michael Turner on Friday, November 12, 2021

Photo Left to right: Moderator Michael Turner, **president of the Las Vegas Summerlin Rotary Club**; Lt. William Matcho, **Vice and Sex Trafficking Section, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department**; Dr. Christina Vela, **CEO, St. Jude's Ranch for Children**; Judge William Voy, **Clark County Specialty Court for Sexually Exploited Youth**; and Kathleen Khal, **director HUB Las Vegas, Hope Church**.



The FBI has identified Las Vegas as one of 13 High Intensity Child Prostitution Areas, in its 2017 annual report. According to an August 26, 2021 Washington Post article, at least 290 minors were arrested for a prostitution-related offenses in 2019. The state that arrested the most kids♦at least 110♦was Nevada.

The Rotary Club of Las Vegas Summerlin is concerned about the exploitation of children in Southern Nevada and held a grassroots forum on October 19: Child Sex Trafficking: Are Your Kids at Risk? The forum was the launch of an initiative to educate the community about the realities of child sex trafficking by establishing a grassroots movement.

Lt. Bill Matchko, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Vice & Sex Trafficking Investigations Section said, that it is responsibility of parents to monitor their children♦s digital activities. ♦Children don♦t understand that music they listen to idolizes the pimp lifestyle. ♦ They think that sounds glamorous which is far from the reality. ♦[Child sex trafficking] is disgusting and breaks our hearts when we encounter children in this situation. ♦What people don♦t realize is that child sex trafficking is happening within walking distance of this church [in Summerlin].♦

♦The key to assisting children [leave the world of child sex trafficking] is to determine what tools to use to extract them from that world,♦ said Judge William Voy, Clark County Specialty Court for Sexually Exploited Youth. What adds to the burden is that about ♦70% of the kids brought to court do not see it as a safe haven for them. What they want is a safety and control of their lives.♦ This could come in the form of receiving centers that would provide an inviting and safe environment with a range of therapeutic services. However, the court♦s hands are tied because the program lacks state or local funding. In 2021 the Nevada legislator passed SB 274 which would establish these centers. But the bill was not funded. ♦We need to get the political will of the community to get government agencies to fund this [initiative],♦ said Judge Voy.

♦It takes a village to raise a child,♦ said Kathleen (Kat) Khal, Director of HUB, which is affiliated with Hope Church. Unfortunately, the community has not created a village to help victims of child sex trafficking. HUB is faith based and Kahl said that ♦God made the brain a certain way and to make a stand with a survivor you need to understand how trauma [of sex trafficking] has affected their brain.♦ Another important tool for aiding victims, is to establish meaningful relationships with them. They need the love and caring that only comes from another person. HUB is always looking for volunteers who can establish those warm and compassionate relationships with trafficked children. ♦We [also] need men to volunteer because many survivors have not had men in their lives. They need them as positive role models because in many situations their fathers abandoned them,♦ said Kahl.

In addition, ♦We need to have a standard of love in our home,♦ said Dr. Christina Vela, CEO, St. Jude♦s Ranch for Children. ♦Pay attention to your children. Talk to them about sexual abuse and sex trafficking. They need to understand the dangers of getting involved in this pernicious activity.♦ Children need meaningful extracurricular activities to occupy their time. Latch key children are in the most danger because there is no one is at home to monitor their activities for several hours. To occupy their time, they surf the Internet and accidentally getting involved in conversations with people who have unsavory motives. Children are too immature to fully understand that they are being manipulated by these people. Once they meet up with someone it may be too late to extricate themselves from the situation.

♦Child sex trafficking is an insidious crime,♦ said Elyne Greene, manager, victim services and human trafficking homicide and sex crimes bureaus, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police. ♦We need to realize that victims are often repeatedly violated, vulnerable to continued abuse and exploitation, and will suffer from lifelong emotional and psychological trauma. What parents may not know is that many victims come from our local neighborhoods and that most liaisons start with a seemingly innocent online conversation. In most cases, these activities are off the parents♦ radar unless they are vigilant in monitoring their children's online activity. We must take action.♦

A special thanks to David Dendy, member of Summerlin Rotary and Pastor of Mountain View Presbyterian Church for donating the venue.



What can you do? Help the Las Vegas Summerlin Rotary establish the all important village that Kathleen Kahl is an advocate of. Just the club's grassroots movement. In addition, the club is using this project as model that will be expanded across Rotary District 5300.

Contact Michael Turner at michaelbear28@gmail.com to volunteer and to help spread the program to other clubs in the district.



Blue Dragon versus Human Trafficking

By Drexel Smith on Friday, November 12, 2021



Michael of Blue Dragon in Viet Nam was a featured speaker at last year's Rotary Peace Conference. I have been supporting his mission at Blue Dragon for some time and they are doing great work. Here is the latest.



Hi Drexel,

I have some incredible news to share with you.

Here at Blue Dragon, we've just completed a rescue that might be our most complex operation yet, involving a journey by foot over 38 days.

Trang is 18 and Hien is 29 years old. They were trafficked from Vietnam and they both ended up in Myanmar. They were taken to a northern state bordering China which is largely lawless and out of reach for most people. In this area, violence is rife and the COVID outbreak is completely unchecked. Human trafficking is a massive problem, and in such an unstable situation there is almost no help available.

Trang and Hien went believing that they were going to work in factories in China. Instead, they were sold into brothels. The most brutal brothels that you could imagine.

When they were finally able to call for help, we were ready and willing to rescue them. In reality, our hands were tied. With political instability and the COVID pandemic preventing movement between countries, we could get Trang and Hien out of the brothel but we could

not get them to another town where the traffickers could not find them.

And that was the problem. Once they were free from the brothel, they still were not safe. They were trapped, and every day they stayed in hiding meant that they risked being found again by their traffickers.

We knew that if they were caught, the punishment would be severe. They would possibly be killed. We already know of two Vietnamese women in the area who have been murdered by their traffickers for refusing to obey.

With no way to get to safety, Blue Dragon worked with Trang and Hien to make a very difficult decision. The only way back to Vietnam was over land. So that's what we did. Our rescue team walked with them from Myanmar until they were safely back to Vietnam.

This journey took just over 5 weeks. Often it was on foot, and sometimes by car, motorbike or boat.

Nights were spent sleeping around a campfire in the jungle. Food was rationed carefully and we avoided main roads and large towns.

I can't share the details of which route they followed, but I can tell you that they are now back in Vietnam and do not have to fear being found by the traffickers.

Trang and Hien travelled with the rescue team over 2,000 km across mountains and rivers to get back to Vietnam. It was often frightening and exhausting, but still it was better than waiting to be caught and tortured by the traffickers.

Blue Dragon has rescued over 1,000 people from slavery, but we have not done a rescue quite like this before. I hope we never have to do it again. Weighing the options, this was the only way we could be sure that Trang and Hien would make it home alive.

As I write this, Trang and Hien are in quarantine in Vietnam awaiting reunion with their families. They are in excellent health and are incredibly relieved to be so close to home.

They have shown exceptional courage and determination. At a time when the whole world is in turmoil and talk about our freedom is headline news, their incredible journey to escape danger and regain their freedom is an inspiration. They set out fully understanding the risks, knowing it was the only way.

I want to end by remarking that Blue Dragon's mission is not to rescue people from trafficking. Our mission is to end human trafficking altogether.

Rescue is one essential component of that. With Trang and Hien now free from slavery, we will continue to work to secure justice against those who trafficked them. In recent months, we have received hundreds of calls to help other women and girls trafficked into northern Myanmar, and we are working to find them and get them all home, one way or another.

And we will continue doing whatever is necessary to end the trade in human beings once and for all.

Drexel, this rescue was an extraordinary operation, and as a result two young women are now safe. Blue Dragon will continue supporting them with medical attention, counselling, and practical assistance for as long as they need it. More than anything, though, I look forward to the day that I can tell you that Vietnam is free from the grip of human trafficking altogether.

Thank you for your support of Blue Dragon's work. As this rescue operation highlights, rescuing people from danger and keeping them safe may be difficult, but it is possible. I'm delighted that Trang and Hien are well and safe, and I hope that you are too.

Sincerely,

Michael Brosowski
Founder & co-CEO

www.bluedragon.org

How to Welcome a New Member Into your Club

By Michael Levy on Friday, November 12, 2021

In my continuing series regarding membership, the next step after an interested person applies for membership in your club, is vetted by whomever at the club tasked with this detail, and is formally approved for membership by your board of directors is the formal or informal pre membership acceptance discussion or meeting. This is a very important part of the membership process since a person has probably filled out an application to join, but may not be familiar with the specific nuances of your particular club even if they have previously been a Rotarian or are transferring from another rotary club to yours. Please be sure that you keep the prospective member updated on the application/vetting process. Usually there is some anxiety about acceptance.

The orientation meeting is very important for both the new member and the club. For example, every club has expected financial obligations for members including dues, fund raising efforts, Paul Harris Society donations, etc. While these may have been covered previously, it is very important to make sure these obligations are clearly disclosed so there is no misunderstanding on the part of either the Club or the new member.

Another area to cover is reviewing your committees and the programs your club is involved in. Then finding out what interests the new member has so you can put him or her into such committees or programs of interest to him or her. This will be the start of engagement for the new member. Furthermore, it is important after this meeting or discussion, if not in person for the person conducting the meeting to give the new member the name of each committee chair or program chair, their respective phone numbers, and email addresses. [My Club has this on its website](#). In addition, the person conducting the orientation should contact each committee or program chair on behalf of the new member to introduce him or her to the chair. Doing this with the new member helps reduce any existing anxiety or fear arising from a new or unknown situation. In other words, it breaks the ice for your new member.

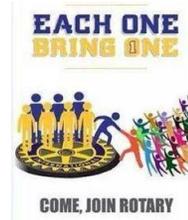
My Club, Las Vegas Summerlin uses a written letter detailing these items which includes information on billing, Club officers, directors, and committee chairs, Paul Harris contributions, etc.. I will be happy to share the Membership Materials my Summerlin Rotary Club uses. Just drop me a line.

During the orientation meeting or discussion, it is important to let the person know when you expect to induct them into the club, and to extend an invitation to his or her spouse or significant other to come to the club meeting at the club's expense to see the induction ceremony, meet the other members of the club, and begin to become part of the Rotary family. It is important for each member and his or her family to feel welcome and wanted by your club.

The last item of orientation involves having a mentor for the new member who will contact the new member regarding the ins and outs of your club and Rotary. For example, my Club has a [new member information power point](#) presentation talking about learning, engage, contribute and building relationships. While this is a nineteen slide format, the information it contains gives guidance to a new member about our Club, our District, Rotary International, and where to look online for much more information on his or her own. It reinforces why he or she joined Rotary and tries to give them an easy to follow roadmap on engagement. The mentor program reinforces this orientation by answering questions, assisting them in navigating specific issues within the club, the district, or Rotary International, and gives them confidence to move forward within Rotary. Using a mentor helps the new member to acquaint themselves to your unique club culture so they feel confident in engaging committees and programs regarding the community, which is why they decided to join Rotary in the first place.

This second phase of membership is called engagement. The new member has the opportunity to give back to the community by participating in various committees and programs to accomplish that goal. It reinforces why they chose to join Rotary and giving he or she a sense of accomplishment and purpose. It hopefully avoids the I just joined Rotary and have no idea what to do now. Immediate engagement makes for continuing members of the club who have a purpose and desire to do good in his or her community. It is important to tap into that energy so your club has members who have a purpose to belong to your club.

When I was Club President inducting a new member made the meeting very special. The Rotary family extends into our hearts and lives.
#eachonebringone



IDEA: A Path to Peace,

By Roger J. Schulte on Friday, November 12, 2021



IDEA: A Path to Peace
Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access

This year the 32nd Annual Rotary District 5300 Peace Conference examined the issue of peace by focusing on the importance of inclusion, diversity, equity and access. The speakers addressed how our organizations (including Rotary), the laws and traditions in our society, and the practices in our communities and schools create or fail to create a truly equitable, democratic society. The theme encouraged personal introspection how each of us can, hard as it might be, break down barriers and hold those meaningful conversations with those who have been marginalized.

Approximately 140 Rotarians, students and guest attended the online webinar. The surveys evaluating each speaker and the conference as a whole produced very high ratings. A highlight was a tribute to the late Garbis Der-Yeghian and a moving conversation with his wife, Angela and two sons, Jimmy and Johnny. Awards for the student art contest were also announced.

The event was recorded and videos of each speaker and other conference activities will be available through the District 5300 website by the end of November. You may wish to enjoy listening to our two musical selections, **Day of Peace** by Lisa Sheasby and **Bach's Cello Suite in C Major** by last year's Dan Stover winner, Phillip Chen. We are pleased to announce that we have thus far raised \$38,000 for the Garbis Der Yeghian Memorial for Peace Endowment. Information about the endowment and additional contributions may be made at [click here](#).

Deep appreciation goes to Rotary International President-elect, Jennifer Jones, for kicking off the webinar, Sean O'Donohue for his technical expertise, Mike Driebe for his masterful emceeing, and the members of the 2021 District Peace Conference Committee.



San Marino Rotary joins San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce

By Gilda Moshir on Friday, November 12, 2021

The San Marino Rotary Club just became a member of the San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce and we had a ribbon cutting this past Thursday. This was an effort to expand our reach into a neighboring community. San Gabriel used to have a Rotary club that just dissolved. We are hopeful this partnership will mean more people in San Gabriel will look at joining our club.

And we know that we will give business to the City and its businesses through this partnership.

The ribbon cutting was most epic.

On this same day, we inducted Dr. Marcella Marlowe the City Manager for the City of San Marino. For clubs who don't know who to induct, these are some great ideas.



Gilda Moshir
District Membership Chair, Rotary Club District 5300 - 20201
Ambassador, San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce - 2021

Nominations for DG, Dist 5300

By Luciano De Sylva on Friday, November 12, 2021

Rotary District 5300



District 5300 is seeking applicants for our 2024-2025 District Governor position. One of the most important decisions we make in our District is choosing our future leadership. We are seeking the most qualified person for the position of District Governor. If you have, or know someone who has a demonstrated history of proven leadership as a Rotarian, and would be willing to serve, then we are seeking that talent, skill and sound judgment to be used by our District Governor for the 2023-2024 Rotary year.

For more information, [click here](#).

or

Please direct any questions to:

PDG Luciano ♦Lu♦ de Sylva

District Governor Nominating Committee Chair

Phone: 951-285-1777 (mobile)

Email: rotarydesylva@gmail.com

Montebello Rotary and the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast

By Manuel L. Franco on Wednesday, November 17, 2021

On September 30, 2021, the Rotary Club of Montebello hosted the city's first Mayor's Prayer Breakfast in many years.

Local faith leaders from all denominations were invited. In addition, the Lion's Club, Soroptimus Club and Chamber of Commerce were asked to help bring the community together. Rotary and enrolled service club leaders worked closely with the City to make this a reality. As a result, over 150 attendees were welcomed by the Mayor, received uplifting messages from faith leaders, were updated on the City's progress by city officials and were served breakfast by members of the service clubs.

Mayor Cabos-Cawthome commented, "Let us remember the Golden Rule that binds people of all faiths and beliefs. I hope this gathering and the reflections shared this morning are the start of a tradition of bringing our community and its spiritual leaders together under the principle that we can treat one another as we wish to be treated - as humans, friends and neighbors."

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Mayor's Military Banner Program which will post banners throughout the City recognizing Montebello's Military Personnel currently

serving Worldwide!



Annual Fund Leader meets District Leaders

By Mark Mariscal on Wednesday, November 17, 2021



During the Rotary Zone 26/27 training in Tucson AZ in mid-November, our District Governor-Elect Roger, DG Nominee Michael and District Rotary Foundation Chair Mark Mariscal, had a few opportunities to speak with Rotary Foundation staff member Geoffrey Cochran. Geoff's focus is on the Annual Fund. He reminded us that November is Foundation Month. All club presidents should be reminding members that it is easy to sign up for Rotary Direct. Any contribution is appreciated but more importantly, a monthly or quarterly consistent donation makes a difference. And of course, signing up for Rotary Direct or making a contribution to the Annual Fund can happen all year long.

Global Grant Scholar Mark Liang

By Jaime Goldsmith on Wednesday, November 17, 2021
Greetings from Cambridge!

After many jetlagged nights, frantic scrambling for laundry detergent, and the occasional Fresher's Flu, I am finally settled into student life here in the university. I'm standing in front of my College housing, New Court, which dates back to the 19th century. Pros: living in a tremendously beautiful building. Cons: I have to go down two flights of stairs to shower. But the food is incredible!

Many of the graduate students here are from all over the world, and within a month I've met neighbors from Australia, Japan, Britain, the USA, and many other places. I like to tell people from home asking me about my experience thus far that everyone here is exceptionally clever, that I'm getting accents mixed up, and that no one seems to take Halloween as seriously as the Americans.

Classes here are a lot different here than in the States, but I'm excited to have found research supervisors and interesting academics willing to meet with me and support my research. The libraries here rival that of the Huntington Library back home (though I have to say the gardens in San Marino are warmer). I look forward to using all the resources available here and in places like London to study how health and patterns of disease affect immigrants, migrants, and refugees, which is a big part of what brought me to the United Kingdom.

My Rotary host, Nigel, has been nothing but warm and welcoming. He has already taken me out into the Cambridge countryside, where we visited some local pubs, the Cambridge American Cemetery, and some historic homes. Here we are eating some traditional pub food (and a pint at 2pm on a Wednesday, but who's counting).

I'm looking forward to speaking with Nigel's club later this month and for all that this year has to offer. Many thanks again to the many Rotarians who helped support me, and I'll see you all soon!

Mark Liang



