



## April 2026: Environment

### DISTRICT EVENTS

April 6th  
[Global Grants and International Projects Team](#)

April 9th  
[Membership Committee Meeting](#)

April 18th  
[Club Leadership Learning Seminar, Visalia](#)

May 1st - 3rd  
[Far West Fest - 2026 District Conference, Reno](#)

June 13th  
[2026 ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION, Taipei, Taiwan](#)

#### We love content!

To submit an event or article, please send to [editor5230@gmail.com](mailto:editor5230@gmail.com) by the 20th of the month for publication the following month.

#### Editorial guidelines:

with respect to our ancient software and your time-challenged editor, please send your text in the body of an email, not in Word, Pages or other word processing programs. Also, do not use bold, italics, emojis or bullets as they do not translate into DACdb. Include an article title and a high-resolution photo of yourself, plus photos for the article.

## Rotary Projects Contribute to a Healthier World



*Brinet Greenlee*  
District Governor

Around the world, Rotarians are discovering that service to people is inseparable from care for the planet we share. From restoring watersheds and planting trees to reducing waste and supporting sustainable communities, Rotary members are taking action to protect our environment for future generations. By making environmental stewardship a priority, Rotary affirms that service above self includes safeguarding the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the ecosystems that sustain life. Together, Rotarians are proving that even small local projects can contribute to a healthier, more resilient world.

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## Creating Ocean Advocates: Monterey Cannery Row Rotary



*Peter Skinner, Past President*  
Monterey Cannery Row Rotary Club

The Monterey Cannery Row Rotary Club has a focus on the environment – our tag line is *Service for a Sustainable Environment*. And while it's not all we care and think about, addressing environmental challenges is the glue that brings, and keeps, many of us together. This focus on the environment is behind one of our landmark projects.

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## How Your Rotary Club Can Adopt a Highway

*Bruce Mackey, PDG*  
Hanford Rotary Club

You've probably seen those *Adopt a Highway* signs while driving here in California. It is a program established here in 1989 allowing the public to donate materials, equipment and services for roadside maintenance or enhancement. If you have been driving west on Highway 198 between Visalia and Hanford, you may have seen a sign indicating this stretch of highway has been adopted by *The Rotary Clubs of Hanford*. In 2014, while I was President of the Rotary Club of Hanford, I contacted Caltrans and signed up for the program along with the President of the Hanford Sunset Club. A two-mile stretch of Highway 198 on the north side of the highway became our responsibility to keep clean. OK, how and why? [Read More](#)



## Interacting with the Community to Care for Carmel



*Choice Muivah*  
President, Carmel High School Interact Club

At Carmel High School, our Interact Club has worked hard to benefit our community. One of our key activities has been working with Carmel Cares, a grassroots nonprofit organization that has built its reputation on improving and maintaining our city. Founded in 2018, the organization focuses on landscaping, picking up trash and restoring neglected parts of the city (such as scenic pathways and neighborhood parks). [Read More](#)

## Interact Speech Contestants Impress Audience



*Debbie Hale*  
Past District Governor

On Saturday, March 28, I was honored to serve as a judge for our District Interact Speech contest in Carmel. It has been several years since we have held such a districtwide contest, so it was exciting to have representatives from three high schools compete for top honors. The winner is invited to give their speech at the Far West Fest District Conference in Reno on May 1 - 3.

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## Winning Interact Speech: Unite to Improve the Environment



*Jasmin Jin*  
Carmel High School Interact

It's 6:00 am. A cold breeze brushes past as I pick up a comically-oversized ladle. The sun has barely begun to rise as the liquid in a three-foot-tall pot slowly turns into a tub of bright orange Gatorade. Volunteering at events such as the Big Sur Marathon allows me to give back to my community. I feel a warmth growing in my chest as runners — already 11 miles into their race — use their limited breath to muster up a quick, exhausted "thank you."

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## Get Ready for the Club Leadership Learning Seminar – April 18



*Susan Winey*  
District Governor-Elect

Rotary leadership starts with preparation, connection, and a shared commitment to serving our communities. That's why I'm excited to invite all current and incoming club leaders—and any interested Rotarians—to our Club Leadership Learning Seminar on Saturday, April 18, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the College of the Sequoias in Visalia, California.

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## Get Ready for the District Conference May 1 - 3 in Reno!



*Joy Anderson, PDG*  
District Conference Chair

Mark your calendars and make plans to join fellow Rotarians from five Northern California Districts for an unforgettable Multi-District Conference, taking place May 1-3, 2026 at the beautiful Grand Sierra Resort in Reno. This annual gathering is more than just a conference—it's an opportunity to reconnect with friends, celebrate the impact of Rotary, exchange ideas, and get inspired for the year ahead. From engaging speakers to meaningful fellowship, the weekend promises something for everyone.

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## Rotary Clubs Unite for Over 20 Years of Service in Guatemala



*Ana Carretero*  
Area 7, District Assistant Governor

For more than two decades, the Hanford Rotary Club, in partnership with the Lemoore Rotary Club, has been dedicated to improving lives in the remote communities of Lanquín, Alta Verapaz, Guatemala. I recently returned from this year's multi-club effort, which included Rotary clubs from Hanford, Lemoore, Earlimart, Lindsay Foothill, Madera, West Linn (OR), Camas-Washougal (WA), Three Creeks (WA), and San Juan Islands (WA). These clubs have all contributed their time, resources, and dedication to sustain and expand this impactful mission.

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## Service Above Self in Action: Salinas Rotary's Two Years of Global Impact

*Lorisa McKelvey Daye, President*



### Salinas Downtown Rotary Club

For two consecutive years, the Downtown Salinas Rotary Club has extended its reach far beyond Monterey County—partnering internationally to create lasting, life-changing impacts. Committed to improving lives locally and globally, the Club completed two international projects that are transforming communities abroad.

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## Spring is a Season for Curiosity



*Genevieve Armendariz*  
Chair of Education and Literacy

Spring has a way of waking things up. Flowers bloom, the days grow longer, and the world feels full of new energy. It's also a wonderful reminder that curiosity is one of the most powerful forces behind learning. Every child begins with curiosity — asking questions, exploring new ideas, and discovering how the world works. Literacy is what allows that curiosity to grow. When a child learns to read, they gain the ability to explore endless new worlds, ideas, and opportunities.

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## Rotary Foundation and Sustainable Projects



*Bruce Mackey, PDG*  
Foundation Chair

Global grants are one of the ways that our Rotary Foundation puts your donations to work. These international projects, costing a minimum of \$30,000, can be funded by a combination of club funds, district designated funds, outside funds and Rotary Foundation World Funds. Having worked on a couple of global grants, I can tell you one of the major difficulties is ensuring the project will be sustainable long after Rotarians exit the area. There are many pitfalls waiting to sabotage sustainability, but fortunately we have a nifty guide Rotary has written to help us called *Six Steps to Sustainability*.

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## Congratulations to the Top Ten Donating Clubs



Thank you to all the clubs who have donated so generously. Here are the results for the month of February, 2026. The number of asterisks(\*) next to the club's name indicates how many of the Top Ten lists the club appears on this month.

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## Golden Gate Bridge Walk for World Polio Day Continues to Grow



*Belinda Daguio*  
District Polio Plus Chair

On a clear October morning, when the fog lifts just enough to reveal her in all her glory, there is nothing quite like stepping onto the Golden Gate Bridge with purpose in your heart and Rotary friends by your side. This year was my fourth time making that walk on World Polio Day. And every single step still felt just as meaningful as the first.

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## The Relevance of Rotary in a Changing World



*Joy Anderson, PDG*  
District Membership Chair

Rotary Clubs were initially established for networking and referrals. Now the importance of belonging to a club or organization for the main purpose of networking has diminished, since there are so many other ways to network: in-person, virtually or through social networks. Take, for instance, LinkedIn, Meet-Ups, Chamber of Commerce mixers, social and community events. In many instances, these networking opportunities do not require joining a club, paying dues or attending scheduled meetings.

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## King City Rotary Club Celebrates 100 Years of Service to the Community



*Rob Cullen, President*  
King City Rotary Club

The King City Rotary Club celebrated a remarkable milestone Saturday, March 7, as members, guests, and community leaders gathered at Rustic Barrel to mark the club's 100th anniversary with a special Centennial Luncheon.

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## Congratulations to Our Members with 25+ Years of Rotary Service!



As of this month, the Rotarians listed below have 25 or more years of membership. On the list are several distinguished members from clubs around our District. Scroll to the bottom, and you'll see that Rodger Jensen from the Rotary Club of North Fresno has been a member for 75 years — wow! Word is that he holds the record in our District, possibly in the world, as the longest-serving living Rotarian. He's 105 years old and flew as a bomber in WWII. The Club honored his service at a recent meeting with a special plaque (see photo).

Thank you to Rodger and all of our 25+ anniversary members for your long-term dedication to Service Above Self.

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## Welcome to Our Newest Rotarians!



Our District 5230 Rotary clubs inducted 22 new members in March 2026, including Eleni Mattheakis pictured here with her sponsor Maryann O'Hern after being inducted into the Monterey Bay Passport Club by District Governor Brinet Greenlee. Kudos to the four clubs who officially added three or more members this month: Carmel Valley, Community Action (Fresno) Lemoore, Monterey Bay Passport. Congratulations to all our new Rotarians and their clubs. To see the full list of new members, click on the *read more* link.

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## Club and District Events



**Far West PELS 2026**  
**Susan Winey**  
**District Governor 2026-2027**

**Rotary**   
District 5230

**CREATE  
LASTING  
IMPACT**

It no longer has the best acronym ever, but the March 2026 Far West President-Elect Learning Seminar (formerly PETS) was still full of fun, fellowship and learning. What happens at PELS stays at PELS, so if you want to find out what happens there next year, you'll have to become your club's President-Elect for 2027/28...or an Area Governor, a member of the Education team, a Sergeant-at-Arms, or a member of the District Governor line. Even if you missed PELS, there's a lot of other events going on in our District:

April 10: Women's Conference, sponsored by Reedley and Selma Rotary Clubs

April 11: Lemoore Rotary Food Drive

April 18: Club Leadership Learning Seminar, Visalia

May 1 - 3: Far West Fest District Conference, Reno, Nevada

June 7 - 12: Camp ROYAL, Rotary Youth Leadership Assembly, Lake Sequoia

June 13 - 17: Rotary International Convention, Taipei, Taiwan

June 15: Big West Breakfast at the Convention

**Where's my Club's event? Send your flyer to [editor5230@gmail.com](mailto:editor5230@gmail.com). [Read More](#)**