

# Rotary

## District 5230



# UNITE FOR GOOD

## January 2026: Vocational Service

### DISTRICT EVENTS

January 5th  
[Global Grants and International Projects Team](#)

January 8th  
[District 5230 Membership Committee Meeting](#)

February 7th  
[Central Valley Interact Conference](#)

March 6th  
[Far West President Elect Learning Seminar](#)

May 1st  
[Far West Fest - 2026 District Conference](#)

Share your great Rotary club activities with other Rotarians - send us an article!

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 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 all caps, bold, italics, emojis or bullets. Include an article title and a

## Rotary Should Compliment Your Life, Not Complicate It



*Brinet Greenlee  
District Governor*

Rotary has been part of many of our lives for years—sometimes decades. We joined to serve, to connect, and to make a difference. But in the midst of busy calendars, work demands, family commitments, and community responsibilities, it's worth pausing to reflect on an important truth: Rotary should complement your life, not complicate it. If Rotary ever feels like an obligation rather than an opportunity, then something is out of balance—and balance is exactly what Rotary is meant to support.

[Read More](#)

## Rotary International President's Message: More Than a Job



*Francesco Arrezo  
President, Rotary International*

In a garage outside Salinas, California, young people who are learning to restore classic cars are doing more than developing a skill — they are reclaiming their futures. This training program provides mentorship and, for some, a path away from gang involvement toward meaningful employment. Graduates leave with certifications, practical experience, and hope.

[Read More](#)

high-resolution photo of yourself, plus photos for the article.

## From Mrs. Claus to Community Champion: Merritt Wiseman's Year-Round Gift to Visalia



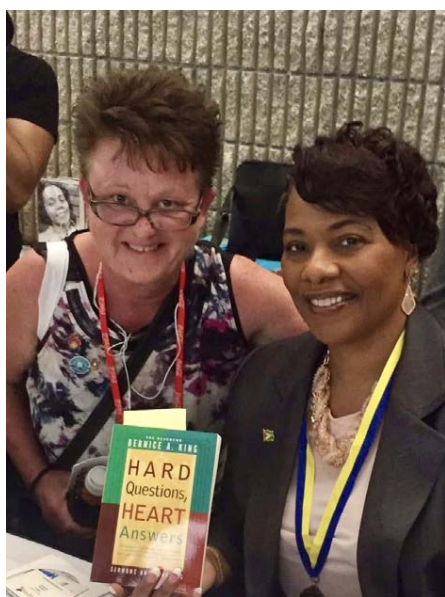
*Meade Trueworthy  
Special to Visalia Times-Delta  
Dec. 23, 2025*

Some Tulare County residents may not know Merritt Wiseman personally, but many have likely seen her trademark smile while she volunteers at events across Visalia.

She recently played Mrs. Claus during the Visalia Fox Theater Elf in Concert with the Sequoia Symphony Orchestra. Her contagious laughter, kind smile and generous nature make her a natural choice to play the role. Bringing joy and helping others is something Mrs. Claus and Wiseman have in common. However, Wiseman uses her gifts to better Visalia all year long.

[Read More](#)

## Goosebumps, Gratitude, and the Gift of Rotary



*Belinda Daguio  
District Polio Plus Chair*

As your District Polio Plus Chair, I am endlessly grateful for the incredible experiences this role brings—and, most of all, the extraordinary people I get to meet along the way. Rotary truly has a way of opening doors and hearts, and I felt that so deeply recently during a Zoom call that left me both moved and energized.

[Read More](#)

## Reflections, Responsibility, and the Work Ahead

*Genevieve Armendariz  
District 5230 Education & Literacy Chair*

The beginning of a new year invites a different kind of thinking. January is quieter than December, but it is far more decisive. It is the moment when intentions are set, priorities are clarified, and we ask ourselves not just what we will do this year — but why. As Rotarians, reflection is not passive. It is how we sharpen our service.

This month, I invite our district to reflect on literacy and



education not as causes on a list, but as forces that have shaped who we are — and who we are able to serve.

[Read More](#)

## What Do You Hope to Accomplish With Your Rotary Donation?



*Bruce Mackey  
District Foundation Chair*

I'm going to diverge a little in this article and talk about the flip side of your Foundation donations: how your Rotary club should use Foundation funds in a District grant. As you all know, about one half of the donations made three years ago come back to the District in the form of District Designated Funds (DDF) and about half of those

monies are available to the clubs for District grant projects.

[Read More](#)

## Renewing Our Commitment: New Year's Resolutions in Rotary



*Becky Moser  
District Membership Chair*

As the calendar turns to a new year, Rotarians everywhere are reminded of the timeless opportunity to reflect, reset, and recommit to the ideals of Service Above Self. New Year's resolutions aren't just about personal growth, they can also be powerful tools for strengthening our clubs, deepening our impact, and inspiring our communities.

[Read More](#)

## Community Awareness Fair Coming to the Monterey Peninsula

**COMMUNITY SERVICE IN ACTION**

**SATURDAY  
JANUARY 31, 2026  
10AM - 12:30PM**

**OLDEMEYER CENTER  
986 HILBY AVE  
SEASIDE**



**HOW CAN YOU HELP?  
JOIN US FOR A GREAT RESOURCE EXPO**

**AWESOME PROJECTS, SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS,  
NON PROFITS AND COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS**



**Saturday, January 31, 2026  
10:00 AM-12:30 PM  
Oldemeyer Center, Seaside**

Rotary District 5230 is hosting a Community Awareness Fair featuring 12 local nonprofits serving Monterey County. This event will be a perfect opportunity to explore potential service projects, meet community partners, and introduce prospective members to Rotary's mission. Refreshments provided. Bring a friend and drop in anytime during the 2.5-hour event. Questions? Contact Co-Chairs Teresa Homan, Carmel Valley Rotary

Club at [\(831\) 620-9188](tel:8316209188) or Manal Masri, Pacific Grove Rotary Club at [\(818\) 626-4208](tel:8186264208).

## Club and District Events



We had a great time at the Rotary United Nations commemoration in San Francisco! Join in the fun by attending the Rotary Club and District events listed under Read More (below).

To publicize your Rotary event, send a flyer that includes the event name, date, time, location, your club name, and where to sign up (or buy tickets) to [editor5230@gmail.com](mailto:editor5230@gmail.com) by the 20th of the month. It will be published in the following month's newsletter—it's that simple.

[Read More](#)