



Highlighter



District Officers



Gilda Riaz Moshir
District Governor



Dennis M. Franklin
District Gov-Elect



Karina D. Anderson
District Gov-Nominee



Michael D Driebe
IPDG



Rae Kearney
Executive Area Governor
- SoCal East



Lydia L. Carswell
Executive Area Governor
- SoCal West



Manuel L. Franco
Executive Area Governor
- SoCal West



Edward Abad
Executive Area Governor
- AV/HD



Rebecca Fritz
Executive Area Governor
- SoNV



Debra A. Parsley
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- SoNV

Amy Vandermark
District Public Image
Chair

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DISTRICT ARTICLES

District Governor Gilda Moshir's Corner

I just returned from my 2nd Rotary International (RI) Convention in Calgary, I must say it was a trip well worth taking. If you have never



Michael L. Soden
Rotary Foundation Chair



Events

July 2nd
[Simple Qigong Group Exercise with Seniors](#)

July 3rd
[Glendora Field of Heroes](#)

July 3rd
[District-Growing Club Membership](#)

July 4th
[Claremont Sunrise Freedom 5K Run and 1K Fun Run](#)

July 4th
[LV Summerlin Balloon Wrangling](#)

July 4th
[La Verne 4th of July Parade](#)

July 4th
[Claremont Dunk Tank](#)

July 4th
[Apple Valley Freedom Festival](#)

July 5th
[Altadena Take Down Flags on Lake Avenue](#)

July 5th
[Glendora Field of Heroes Opening Ceremony](#)

July 5th
[Altadena Concert Volunteers](#)

July 10th
[Apple Valley Concerts in the Park](#)

July 11th
[Alhambra & Monterrey Park Simple Qigong Exercise with Seniors](#)

July 11th
[Glendora Movies in the Park](#)

July 12th
[Henderson-AH Spread the Word - NV](#)

July 12th
[Altadena Concert Volunteers](#)

July 17th
[Apple Valley Civic Center Park](#)

July 18th
[LV AH Prez Cat's Debunking](#)

July 18th
[Rotary Club of Glendora Movies in the Park](#)

July 19th
[Altadena Concert Volunteers](#)

July 24th
[Apple Valley Concerts in the Park](#)

July 24th
[Henderson AH-Spread the Word - NV](#)

July 25th



gone to an RI Convention, you should definitely consider it. You will hear from some of the most amazing speakers and become familiar with the culture of the region we visit each year. Calgary welcomed us with open arms. Signs all over town included our Rotary Masterbrand logo and the Calgary host committee—from the airport, to busses, train stations, hotels that were hosting us and even columns on the street where most of the activities were held. The 66 individuals from our District who attended learned about the indigenous people of Alberta and the annual Stampede that takes place in the first and second weeks of July. The Host Organizing Committee (HOC) organized a great line up of speakers and events to educate and entertain us. Academy award winner Geena Davis presented and told us about her 20 year fight for gender parity in media through her nonprofit. Follow her link here and learn more: www.GeenaDavisInstitute.org. We heard from Dr. Rosemarie Truglio, SVP of Education at Sesame Street on how to help children develop empathy and resilience.

Dr. Katherine Hayhoe, Distinguished Professor from Texas Tech gave us a very easy to follow lesson on how we can protect our environment. She encouraged us to take action in every small way we can in our communities to impact our environment: "Hope isn't wishful thinking but rather what gives us the courage to act". She said it is never too late to get started – "The goal of the conversation is not to tell people about climate change, it's to expand the number of people in the conversation." Hence this coming year, we are partnering with District 5330 to champion protecting our environment. If you have a particular interest in protecting our environment, please reach out to DG Gilda Moshir gildarotary5330@gmail.com or 818-807-6060.

The House of Friendship was bustling with creativity. An impressive display was the Three-Year Action Plan sharing four ways we can impact our communities: Expand Our Reach, Increase Our Impact, Enhance Participant Engagement, Increase Our Ability to Adapt. Seven areas were designated for each of the areas of service. My personal favorite was the **Peace Park**, co-organized by our PDG Chehab El-Awar and his wife Bricia from District 5330. The Peace Park was a large area dedicated to many activities related to peace, from footsteps that showed the history of how far we've come in achieving peace through our projects to a large heading showcasing the words of top leaders who fought for peace such as this quote from Desmond Tutu: "If you want peace, you do not talk to your friends, you talk to your enemies". There were many hands-on activities facilitated by local Rotaract and Interact members.

Another favorite was the **Polio Virtua Reality** booth with photos surrounding the walls of the booth showing the history of our End Polio Campaign and how far we've come since the mid 80's when the project was adopted. We got word from Bill Gates and the Gates Foundation that they will continue their commitment to Rotary for a \$300M 2 to 1 match to eradicate polio over the next three years. As the Calgarians say when they want to exclaim good news: "Yahoo"!

My Governor classmates and I were eager to meet our newly named RI President Elect, Francesco Arezzo, from Ragusa, Italy. While we have had 2½ years to prepare for our Governorships, he had only two weeks to prepare for the coming year. He asked for our affection and support. He is excited to expand on the slogan of Unite for Good. Even in its simplicity, he said the theme has a far reach into everything we do as Rotarians: "uniting in service, uniting in our collaborations with our community to further our impact, uniting to build bridges and work in harmony with as many individuals as possible." Unite over time to span the next 3-5 years with your leadership team so that we can plan bigger multi-year projects. Francesco's three goals are to 1) Grow membership, 2) Eradicate polio for good and 3) Peace. For Francesco, Peace is what we do best and we have been doing it every day: sending a young person to one of our peace centers; sending students through our Youth Exchange program to study abroad; and preventing and curing disease is working for peace. Providing clean drinking water or sanitation is working for peace. Giving women the opportunity to give birth in a safe environment is working for peace. All our seven areas of focus are peace building initiatives that we have been working on for more than a century. He said, "Dreaming is indispensable. A poet of the last century said that you begin to die the very moment you stop dreaming. Never stop dreaming. Dreaming is not enough. We have to act. We are People of Action."



[Rotary Club of Glendora Movies in the Park](#)
 July 26th
[Altadena Concert Volunteers](#)
 July 27th
[Green Valley Beyond the Arrow performance](#)
 July 30th
[LV SW Feed the Homeless](#)
 August 1st
[Rotary Club of Glendora Movies in the Park](#)
 August 2nd
[Altadena Concert Volunteers](#)
 August 5th
[DG Gilda CLUB VISIT - Boulder City](#)
 August 8th
[Rotary Club of Glendora Movies in the Park](#)
 August 9th
[Green Valley Project 150 Back to School Student Shopping Day](#)
 August 9th
[Altadena Concert Volunteers](#)

Next year's convention will be in Taipei, Taiwan from June 13 – 17th. I am registered to attend and hope you will consider attending too. Enjoy the few photos from the convention.

Rotary District 5300 End-of-Year Recognition

By DGN Kari Anderson



As we conclude another successful year, let's celebrate the remarkable contributions of all clubs in Rotary District 5300. Your dedication to service has made a significant impact. Here's a list of clubs recognized for their outstanding efforts:

Excellence in Club Service

Bronze: La Verne, Pomona, Rotaract Club of Ave, Walnut Valley
Silver: Rancho Cucamonga, Sierra Madre, South Pasadena
Gold: Aerospace Valley, Alhambra & Monterey Park, Altadena, Antelope Valley, Apple Valley, Boulder City, Greater Chino Hills, Lancaster Sunrise, Greater San Gabriel Valley, Lancaster West, Green Valley, Henderson After Hours, Lancaster, Las Vegas, Las Vegas After Hours, Las Vegas Red Rock, Las Vegas Summerlin, Las Vegas West, Mesquite, Monrovia, Pahrump Valley, Pasadena, San Marino, Upland, Victorville, West Covina

Excellence in Vocational Service

Bronze: Boulder City Sunrise, Green Valley, Mesquite, Monrovia, Pomona, Rancho Cucamonga, Rancho Del Chino, San Marino, Upland, Victorville
Silver: Altadena, Claremont Sunrise, Greater San Gabriel Valley, Lancaster West, Pahrump Valley
Gold: Aerospace Valley, Boulder City Sunrise, Las Vegas After Hours, Las Vegas Summerlin

Excellence in Community Service

Bronze: Claremont, Greater San Gabriel Valley, La Verne, Monrovia, Pahrump Valley, Pasadena, Pomona, San Marino, South Pasadena, Upland
Silver: Antelope Valley, Boulder City, Glendora
Gold: Aerospace Valley, Alhambra & Monterey Park, Altadena, Boulder City Sunrise, Claremont Sunrise, Duarte, Lancaster Sunrise, Las Vegas, Las Vegas Red Rock, Las Vegas Summerlin, Mesquite, Rancho Cucamonga

Excellence in International Service

Bronze: Boulder City Sunrise, Claremont, Claremont Sunrise, Green Valley, Las Vegas Summerlin
Silver: Alhambra & Monterey Park, Altadena, Duarte, Greater Chino Hills, Las Vegas Red Rock, San Marino

Excellence in Youth Service

Bronze: Altadena, Claremont Sunrise, Las Vegas, Las Vegas After Hours, Las Vegas Red Rock, Victorville, West Covina
Silver: Boulder City Sunrise, Claremont, Las Vegas Summerlin, Monrovia, Pahrump Valley
Gold: Alhambra & Monterey Park, Glendora, Pomona, San Marino

Excellence in Public Image

Bronze: Boulder City Sunrise, Claremont, Duarte, Greater San Gabriel Valley, Las Vegas After Hours, Las Vegas Summerlin, South Pasadena, Upland
Silver: Greater Chino Hills, Lancaster Sunrise, Las Vegas, Rancho Cucamonga, San Marino
Gold: Aerospace Valley, Alhambra & Monterey Park, Altadena, Antelope Valley, Boulder City, Claremont Sunrise, Glendora, Mesquite, Pahrump Valley, Pomona, San Marino

Thank you to all clubs for your hard work and dedication. Your efforts continue to inspire and make a difference in our communities and the world.

Welcome to a New Rotary Year — Let's Lead Inclusively!

By Gino Reyes, Inclusive Leadership Chair

We're kicking off the new Rotary year with excitement, energy, and intention! With full support from **District Governor Gilda Moshir**, we're proud to launch a **10-month Inclusive Leadership Series** running from **August through May**.

Each month, we'll explore a different topic from the **Inclusive Leadership Checklist**—a powerful guide to help every Rotarian and club grow more welcoming, engaged, and future-focused. This series will be shared in **multiple ways**:

- An article in *The Highlighter*
- A podcast episode
- Social media posts
- A live/open monthly discussion

That's not all! At every **leadership training** throughout the year, we'll offer **additional topics** to expand the conversation and spark meaningful growth beyond the checklist.

Why Inclusive Leadership? Because it matters for **everyone**—from a potential member walking into their first meeting to a 50-year Rotarian. **No one is above inclusive leadership**, and all of us have room to grow. It's not about checking boxes; it's about building a Rotary where everyone feels seen, heard, and valued.

This is our moment to lead boldly, listen openly, and create space for new voices and perspectives. Together, we can ensure that Rotary reflects the diversity, strength, and spirit of the communities we serve.

Join us. Learn with us. Let's lead—**inclusively**.

The D5300 Cleft Lip Project Needs You

By Drexel L. Smith, Rotary District 5300 Cleft Lip/Palate Project Committee

The D5300 Cleft Lip Project Needs you. Volunteer for a Mission, Schedule a speaker for your club meeting, or Make a donation. Upcoming missions are:

Nagamangala, India - 2 Weeks - December 6 – 21, 2025 Four (4) Non-Medical Volunteer Positions Available

Kampala, Uganda - 2 Weeks - June 07, 2026–June 21, 2026, Several Non-Medical Volunteer Positions Available

Participation is live changing! Contact any member of the Project Committee or the Chair: Drexel L. Smith dls@drexelcg.com

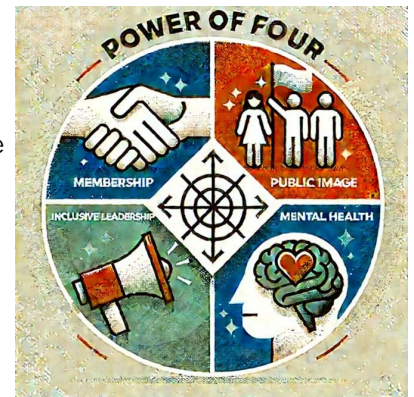
More Than Numbers: How Public Image, Inclusive Leadership, and Mental Health Shape Membership

By Gino Reyes, Inclusive Leadership/Membership/Public Image

If you truly want to grow your membership, it starts with authentic conversations, relationships, building trust, and creating a safe space for everyone. Real growth happens when people feel seen, heard, and valued—not just counted. This kind of growth is sustained by three essential pillars: Inclusive Leadership, Public Image, and Mental Health. Think of them as the legs of a stool—if one is missing, the foundation becomes shaky.

Inclusive Leadership invites people in and ensures that everyone has a seat at the table. It challenges us to look beyond comfort zones and create a culture where diversity isn't just welcomed—it's celebrated. Public Image, meanwhile, reflects who we are to the world. It's how others perceive our values, our actions, and our sincerity. If we're not intentional about our image, we risk being misunderstood or overlooked.

Mental Health is the often-ignored but vital pillar that keeps members engaged and resilient. When people feel emotionally safe and supported, they're more likely to stay, contribute, and lead. These three elements—when working in collaboration—don't just boost numbers. They build a thriving, connected community.



You don't have to launch new committees or programs overnight. Start by learning about each pillar and recognizing how they support one another. Small steps—like starting a conversation or adjusting how you welcome someone—can lead to major shifts. Membership growth isn't just about recruitment. It's about relationships. And that starts with leading from the heart.

District 5300 Revives Peace Fellowship: Your Club Can Change a Life

By Betty Bui and Gino Reyes, District Co-Chairs Peace Fellowship

After more than a decade, Rotary District 5300 is reigniting its commitment to global peace by reviving participation in the prestigious [Rotary Peace Fellowship](#) program. In an exciting effort to engage all clubs across our district, we are launching a Peace Fellow Competition. The idea is simple but powerful: nominate one outstanding individual from your community who embodies the spirit of peace and service. Rotary International will cover the entire cost of the Peace Fellowship — all we ask is for your club to help us find the right candidate.

Imagine helping someone access a fully-funded master's degree or professional development certificate in peace and conflict resolution at one of Rotary's Peace Centers around the world. This isn't just a scholarship — it's a transformative experience that prepares leaders to build peace on a global scale.

District 5300 has long held a proud tradition of leadership and service. With your help, we can bring that legacy to new heights by becoming a Global Peacebuilder District once again. Let's collaborate, energize our clubs, and show the world what District 5300 can do.

There is no cost to your club — only the potential to change a life and elevate peace worldwide. Let's put District 5300 back on the map and into the hearts of future peace leaders. Bring us a candidate. We'll take care of the rest. **Together, we build peace.**

Contact Betty Bui or Gino Reyes, District Co-Chairs Peace Fellowship



New Club Development: We're Here to Help

By Gino Reyes

Starting a new Rotary club is a powerful way to bring service, leadership, and connection to communities that are ready for positive change. Whether you're an individual inspired to lead or part of an existing club looking to support regional growth, you don't have to navigate the process alone. Rotary offers flexible club models to fit different lifestyles and interests—traditional clubs, passport clubs, cause-based clubs, satellite clubs, and more. No matter the format, the goal is the same: build stronger communities through service and fellowship.

One of the key resources available to support this effort is the **Club Builder program**. Club Builders are experienced Rotarians who specialize in guiding new club efforts from idea to charter. They offer mentorship, help build core teams, support outreach and recruitment, and provide hands-on assistance throughout the development process. Whether you're just exploring the idea or ready to move forward, a Club Builder can help make your vision a reality.

Our New Club Development team also provides templates, best practices, and strategic support. We're here to connect you with the right tools and people so you can launch with confidence and sustainability.

New clubs bring new energy, diversity, and innovation to Rotary. If you're thinking about starting one—or want to learn how you can help—reach out. Together, we can grow Rotary where it's needed most.

You have the vision. The District can provide the support. Let's build something great—together.

INVITATIONS

Pomona Rotary - Hot August Night fundraiser

By Jill Dolan, Pomona Rotary

You and your club members are invited to Pomona Rotary Club's fundraiser scheduled for **August 16, 2025: Hot August Night - Driven to Make a Difference.**

A portion of the proceeds will benefit Pomona-area organizations helping survivors of human trafficking.

Hope you can join us! And of course, please spread the word!

See the flyers below for information about sponsorship opportunities.



Award Winning photographer, Rotarian Rick Chou Art Show

Photography enthusiasts, you are in for a treat. Accomplished photographer Rick Chou from the Rotary Club of San Marino has curated a Photography Art Show titled *Iceland Winter: A Fine Art Landscape Photography Collection*. It will open Saturday, July 12, 2025 from 2:30 - 5 pm with a photographer talk at 3:30 pm at the San Marino Community Center at 1800 Huntington Drive, San Marino, CA 91108. Open to the public, admission is free.

Rick Chou is a recipient of the Silver Lion Award at the Cannes Lions International Festival of Creativity, as well as the Belding Award. His work has been published in *Communication Art* and *Lurzer's Archive*, Rick has also taught as a guest lecturer and work-study mentor at ArtCenter College of Design. This series captures the stunning beauty of Iceland, inviting viewers to reflect on fleeting moments in time and to explore.

Limited edition prints for charity at \$250 (gallery price: \$1200). Net proceeds benefit the San Marino Rotary Club's charitable initiatives.

Here is a link to the collection of all 28 images: <https://rickchou.myportfolio.com/>



CLUB HIGHLIGHTS

Antelope Valley -- Successful Fiesta Day Fundraiser

By Joshua Konrad

June in the Antelope Valley comes with sun and a fiesta (not to be confused with a siesta)—our annual Fiesta Day Fundraiser, to be exact. Due to the collective efforts of our club members and friends throughout the year, we were able to ensure that our incoming president, Sam Garcia, is in a great position to continue the work that we all enjoy – serving others.



Glendora Tour of the DAR State House

By Rudy Hayek

Several Glendora Rotary club members attended the Serrano Chapter of the D.A.R.'s fundraiser in late June. It was a beautiful setting under the trees in the shadow of this magnificent Craftsman home. The tour we were treated to was fascinating. To be able to view and appreciate the quality of the construction and building materials of this home was truly special. We were provided an outstanding taco dinner by Cilla's Tacos and a fun chance to have some vintage and not so vintage items evaluated. Sadly, we did not get to see the ghost of Reuben Hamlin, original owner of the house, but there is always next year!

Thank you to Glendora Rotarian and DAR committee member, Christine Smith for her work organizing and hosting the event.



Las Vegas Rotary and WestCare Nevada Empower Job Seekers through Second Annual Suit Drive

By Sarah Thornton

Southern Nevada locals working to rebuild their lives are now one step closer to employment after a local suit drive provided professional clothing, support and a renewed sense of purpose.

The Las Vegas Rotary Club, in partnership with WestCare Nevada, a nonprofit and one of its corporate members, outfitted 40 people with suits donated by club members in preparation for job interviews. WestCare Nevada provides behavioral health services and re-entry support for individuals facing substance use, mental health challenges and involvement in the criminal justice system.

"As a result, 21 of the 40 individuals who received suits have already secured new jobs," said Leo Magrdichian, a Las Vegas Rotarian and regional vice president of WestCare Nevada. "We've heard directly from recipients that this drive truly boosts their confidence—it helps them stand a little taller.... Some shared that they sent photos to their parents, felt a sense of pride and even said it made them feel like an adult for the first time. Moments like these are why we continue this work."

Volunteers provide handwritten notes of encouragement with each outfit, creating meaningful moments of hope and connection.

"This suit drive represents the best of what happens when community partners come together," said Andrew Moran, a Las Vegas Rotarian and development director for WestCare Nevada. "Each suit, along with a handwritten note of encouragement, offers more than a fresh start — it offers hope. It's a true example of Rotary's values in action: dignity, opportunity and service to others."

The Las Vegas Rotary Club is committed to service projects that create long-term impact. The suit drive reflects Rotary's core values of dignity, opportunity and community—one individual, one job and one suit at a time.



LV After Hours - Serving Families in California and Mexico!

By Linda Bertuzzi

This year, our members dedicated nearly 1,600 hours to serving children and families in our community and beyond. Among one of our most meaningful projects was helping the students and staff of Pasadena Rosebud Academy, which was completely destroyed by the Eaton fires. Thanks to generous donations from LV After Hours, Southwest, Downtown, and Las Vegas Rotary Clubs, we raised \$10,000, which was matched by District 5300's Fire Victims Fund for a total of \$20,000. These funds allowed us to purchase everything on the Academy's Amazon wish list, including Macs for office staff, laptops for classrooms, filing cabinets, charging stations, and new uniform tops for all students. A site visit to the school showed firsthand the incredible impact of our efforts, with equipment already in use and 8th graders assembling rolling computer stands for their teachers. We also delivered one of two office copiers, generously donated by Renato Ritter, along with 150 new stuffed animals donated by Summerlin Rotarian Michael Turner.

And while managing this grant, PP Linda Bertuzzi and Prez Cat Brame found time to create two beautiful quilts for the Super Build family in Mexico. The "Home is Where the Heart Is" quilt colors represented Rotary, the hearts paid tribute to our partnership with Corazon and our "Rotary Club with the Biggest Heart" and, finally, the yellow doors reflected light and happiness. The 12-year-old niece's love of Legos inspired the second bright and playful quilt, which brought a huge smile to her face when she received it. And thanks to members Barbara Dempsey and Eugene Maresh for personally delivering them when they went down to help build!



Taste of South Pasadena Becomes a Force for Recovery

By Betty Bui

In January 2025, the Eaton Fire devastated the Altadena foothills, displacing hundreds of families - including many fellow Rotarians from across District 5300. In response, the Rotary Club of South Pasadena transformed its *11th Annual Taste of South Pasadena* from a joyful community celebration into a meaningful act of service.

Proceeds from the event launched the Eaton Fire Relief Grant Program, offering up to \$2,000 to individuals, families, and small businesses who lost their homes - prioritizing applicants employed in South Pasadena. While insurance may cover physical losses, these grants aim to restore the irreplaceable: heirlooms, tools, books, and personal treasures that bring comfort and identity. Almost 1000 fire survivors applied. Recipients will be notified by the end of summer 2025.

"The most precious gift we can offer anyone is our attention. When mindfulness embraces those we love, they will bloom like flowers." - Thích Nhất Hạnh

At Rotary, compassion is action. This grant is our way of saying: *you are seen, you are supported, and you are not alone*. We may not be first responders but we are long-term partners in recovery, committed to helping our neighbors heal and rebuild, one story at a time.



LV Southwest Year End Highlights

By Keith Thomas

The Rotary Club of Las Vegas Southwest recently held its annual "Gold Raffle" fundraiser. Each year the club raffles off \$10,000 in gold and holds a silent and live auction to raise funds for its activities during the next Rotary year. This year the theme was "The Magic of Rotary" to coincide with this year's RI theme. Attendees were encouraged to wear attire from "Old Vegas" to commemorate our club's 60th anniversary of being chartered in 1965.

The event was held in the Ahern Boutique Hotel showroom and commenced with a social hour followed by a delicious buffet dinner. We were entertained by magician [Seth Grabel](#). Interspersed throughout the evening were drawings for gold and a live and silent auction. Another highlight of the evening was seeing all the very cool "throwback fashion statements."

Proceeds from the event will be used for our many projects which just this past year included: sponsoring an Interact Club, an Aviators ball game outing, basketball shoes donation to elementary school, book donation to an elementary school, club picnic on Mt. Charleston, sponsoring a Dan Stover Music Contest and 4-Way Test Speech Contest, providing quarterly Feed the Homeless meals, sponsoring an elementary school trip to a museum, a club golf weekend, quarterly social evenings for new members, an annual holiday party, ongoing hands-on projects providing new shoes and socks for an elementary school, sponsoring an organization for intellectually disabled, sponsoring a community garden, participating in a Puerto Vallarta international water filter project, sponsoring students at RYLA and TLC, purchasing winter coats for elementary school, sponsoring an annual \$10,000 scholarship, and participating in a Christmas toy drive. Whew!

Follow us on our [Facebook page](#) or go to our [website](#), newsletters, and pictures.

