

# IMPACT! e-bulletin



June 17, 2025

District Governor Sue Krahe-Archibald

## The Power of Rotary

By Sue Archibald

"The power of Rotary is friendship," said Paul Harris in his address to the Rotary convention held in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1921. His remarks were greeted with a round of applause — and were endorsed 100 years later by current members of Rotary.

Friendship is one of the greatest reasons to join Rotary. Studies show that a member's club experience is the top factor in their satisfaction. When members feel connected, they stay engaged—and they invite others to join.

So how does your club build connections? How do you help new members feel welcome and involved? Here are some examples:

In Yuma, the eight clubs frequently team up for events like *Teacher of the Year*, *Midnight at the Oasis*, the *Walt Cammann Sausage Fry*, and the *Colorado River Cleanup*. These joint efforts strengthen bonds and amplify impact.

Multi-club events and social gatherings are other great ways to connect. From the *Rillito River Cleanup*, the *Ride to End Polio*, the *RCOT YMCA Camp workday*, the *Rodeo Beer Booth to Wine Tasting in Sonoita* and *Cross-Border Visits*—like the Sierra Vista clubs' recent BBQ with the Agua Prieta Rotary Club in Mexico—these shared experiences build lasting friendships.

The list of collaborative events grows every week. I'm inspired by how many clubs have built bridges as we help make Rotary stronger together.

Let's keep welcoming, connecting, and growing—together.



## A Time of Transition: Acknowledging Our Impact, Embracing What's Next

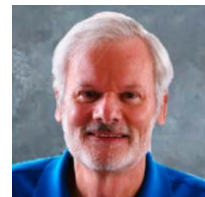
Each year on July 1st, Rotary enters a new chapter—one defined by new leadership based in continuity and renewed purpose. This transition is not merely administrative; it reflects Rotary's tradition of thoughtful planning, shared leadership, and sustained impact.

As the 2024–2025 Rotary year ends, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to **District Governor Sue Archibald**, who has guided the District with enthusiasm, competence, and compassion.

Sue's tenure has seen growth in member engagement especially in the outlying areas of the District, cross-club collaboration such as the California wildfire response, and future-focused initiatives like the digital marketing campaign. We appreciate her dedication and the foundation she has built for Rotary's future.

Now, as we prepare to welcome **Bruce Monro as our 2025-2026 District Governor**, we look forward not to a sudden change but to continuity between past, current and future District Governors focused on the Rotary of the future. Bruce transitions into leadership not from a blank slate but as part of a multi-year process developed with input from the entire DG line and feedback from the clubs. This truly represents the passing of the baton between teammates running the same race.

[Read More](#)



## Gary Hirsch Receives Rotary International Service Award

**Optimistic. Dedicated. Persistent.** These are the qualities that define Rotarians around the world—qualities that have

driven the success of *PolioPlus* and fueled our unwavering commitment to ending polio forever.

These words were echoed at the District Governor Installation event when DG Sue Archibald presented **Gary Hirsch** of the Tucson Rotary Club with the **International Service Award for a Polio-Free World for 2024–2025** in recognition for his significant, hands-on service toward the goal of polio eradication—not just in our Rotary region, but on a global scale.

To give you an idea of the significance of this award, only a maximum of 60 such awards are given out annually across the globe.

Gary's contributions are extraordinary. Since the inception of the **District 5500 Ride to End Polio** in 2008, Gary has been at the heart of the effort. As a founding member of the organizing committee, he helped launch what began as a modest initiative among five local Rotary clubs. Today, he continues to serve as Chair of the Leadership Committee.

Thanks in no small part to Gary's vision and leadership, the D5500 Ride to End Polio has raised over **\$75 million** to date, including the matching funds from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. These funds are vital to distributing wild polio vaccines and bringing us closer to Rotary's shared goal: a world free of polio.

[Read More](#)



## New RI President

Dear Family of Rotary,

In moments of change, the strength and resilience of our Rotary family shine brightest. Following the unexpected resignation of Mário César Martins de Camargo, the Rotary International Board moved swiftly and thoughtfully, in accordance with our bylaws, to ensure continuity in our mission and leadership.

I am proud to share that Francesco Arezzo of the Rotary Club of Ragusa, Italy has accepted the nomination to serve as Rotary International President for 2025–26.

Francesco Arezzo has been a member of Rotary for more than 30 years and is a Benefactor of The Rotary Foundation.

His dedication to Rotary values and vision for a better world make him a remarkable choice to lead us forward.

This transition reminds us that Rotary is more than any one individual—it is a global movement, deeply rooted in fellowship and service, capable of adapting and thriving no matter the challenge.

Now is the time to *Unite for Good* under Francesco's leadership, and together we will propel Rotary into a future defined by hope, action, and community.

Warmest regards,  
Stephanie A. Urchick  
President, Rotary International, 2024–25



## Call for Nominations for District Governor 2028-29



Rotary International District 5500 is now accepting nominations for the position of District Governor for the 2028–2029 Rotary year. This esteemed leadership role offers a unique opportunity to guide our district, inspire fellow Rotarians, and make a lasting impact on our communities.

Serving as District Governor is both an honor and a significant responsibility. The selected individual will act as the official representative of Rotary International within District 5500, providing leadership, motivation, and guidance to Rotary clubs throughout the district. See attached Application that includes upcoming important dates.

Make a difference in our Rotary District 5500!

**Nominations of candidates to serve as District Governor in 2028-29 are due to Dave Lenox, our district administrator, at [DaveRotary5500@gmail.com](mailto:DaveRotary5500@gmail.com) not later than September 6, 2025.** Any club may nominate a candidate who is a member of that club or a member of another club (with the other club's concurrence). **We will hold an orientation and Q/A session at 10am on August 9, 2025 via Zoom, for all interested Rotarians who are thinking about applying. Candidate interviews will be held on September 13, 2025, beginning at noon, also via Zoom.**

[Click here](#) for an Application

[Read More](#)

## Rotary Also Means Fun and Friendship

Okay. Maybe metal is not your chosen genre of music, and that's perfectly fine. But consider this: if Rotary has an action group for metal enthusiasts, it's highly likely they will have one for a topic that excites you. There is even a group for coffee lovers and bird watching.

Joining an action group can be a fantastic complement to your local club membership. It's an opportunity to

Check out the Rotary Fellowships website [here](#). Hopefully, there is something that interests you.



# DISTRICT TRAINING ASSEMBLY



With Bruce Monroe

District Governor

Make a Difference  
Make a Friend

- Sierra Vista May 17
- Pinal County July 12
- Tucson July 19
- Yuma July 26

**UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD**

**Rotary**  
District 5500



8:00am-2:00pm  
Breakfast & Lunch Served  
No Charge

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

- Presidents & Presidents-Elect
- Secretaries
- Membership Chairs

## WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Grants Management Certification
- Public Image
- Foundation
- Networking

## All Rotarians

- Assistant Governors
- Treasurers
- Public Image Chairs
- Membership
- Youth Protection
- Governance Training

Join us for the annual District Training Assembly. Come learn more about the 2025-26 Rotary club year. Engage and share ideas as you learn about best practices, tips and tools with Rotarians across southern Arizona.

Location specifics  
available when registering

Use QR code or visit  
[rotary5500.org/districtassembly](http://rotary5500.org/districtassembly)

rotary5500.org

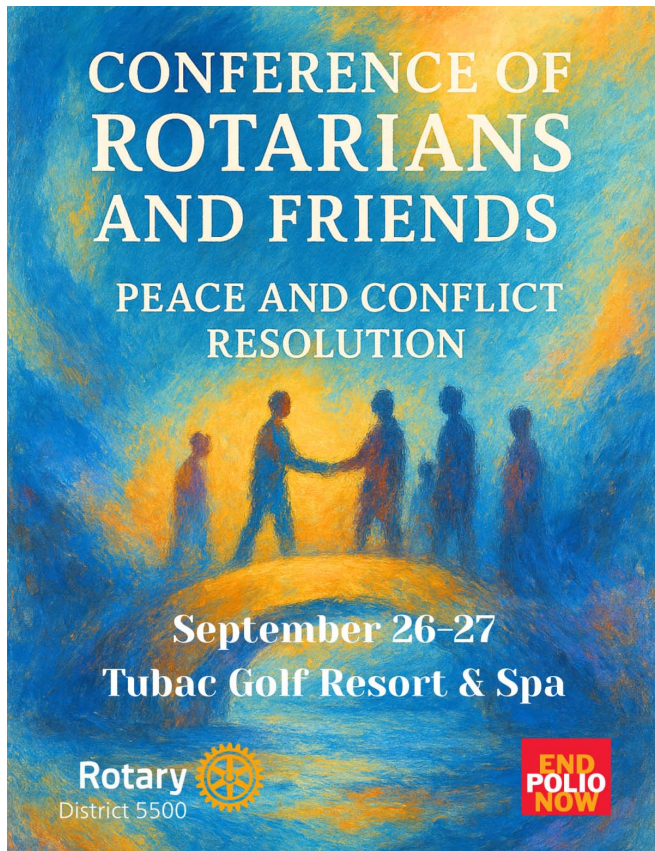
RSVP NOW



## District Conference Update

We are excited to present the updated notice for the District Conference. Our major theme is: **Peace and Conflict Resolution**. Conference registration is now open and you can register [HERE](#)!

The conference will offer valuable insights and skills to enhance your personal and professional life. In our divided world, navigating conflict with diplomacy is essential. Our speakers and breakout sessions will provide practical **strategies for managing conflicts** in various settings. Engage with experts and gain tools to foster collaboration and dialogue.



[Read More](#)

## District Conference Room Reservations

### District Conference Rooms are filling up! TUBAC GOLF RESORT ROOM RESERVATIONS

While we are over three months away from the conference, our room block is filling up quickly!! We have already exceeded our room block on Thursday and Saturday. If you are planning to attend, do not wait until the last minute to book your room. You may not get one. You can call the Resort direct at 520.398.2211.



## Celebration of Life for 2025 District Conference of Clubs

By Leo J. Lawrenson

Have any members of your club passed on since 1 October 2024? Please let us know so that they will be included in the Celebration of Life at this year's D5500 Conference of Rotarians and Friends 25-26 September, 2025. Click [HERE](#) for a simple fillable PDF form that should be completed and returned to [Leo@Lawrenson.com](mailto:Leo@Lawrenson.com).



## Save the Date! Mexico - USA Friendship Conference in Yuma

**October 31 - November 3, 2025**

Registration opens July 1

Mark your calendar for this year's Mexico-USA Friendship Conference and Global Grants Exchange in Downtown Yuma, Arizona. Scan the QR code below for more information. Registration opens July 1.



## Rotary International Learning Opportunities

Rotary International has an entire library of learning modules for all Rotarians!







It's a great time to continue learning. To access Rotary's Learning Center's courses, sign on to [My Rotary](#) and select LEARN. From there you will be able to see Rotary's Learning Center and discover what's new and what's been updated.

Do you prefer to learn on your smartphone? You can take Learning Center courses on our new mobile app, RotaryLearn!

1. Download **Rotary Learning Center** from your app store.
2. Open the app and enter the same username and password you use for My Rotary.
3. Begin learning.

RotaryLearn replaces the Go.Learn app. If you have any questions, you can refer to the "Guide to Using RotaryLearn" or write to [learn@rotary.org](mailto:learn@rotary.org).

Courses by Topic

<p>About Rotary</p>  <p><a href="#">View Courses About Rotary</a></p>	<p>Club Leadership</p>  <p><a href="#">View Club Leadership Courses</a></p>	<p>District Leadership</p>  <p><a href="#">View District Leadership Courses</a></p>
<p>General</p>  <p><a href="#">View General Courses</a></p>	<p>Membership</p>  <p><a href="#">View Membership Courses</a></p>	<p>Professional Development</p>  <p><a href="#">View Professional Development Courses</a></p>

## Graphics Corner

Enjoy this week's inspiring Rotary graphics. They're yours to use for your club's communications. Just download and save to your graphics library, then use them in your social media, newsletters and other Rotary promotional items.

		
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## Yuma Sunrise Bowllo

Saturday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> at Inca Lanes, 1250 West 16th Street, Yuma

[Click here](#) for registration form



Rotary



All proceeds go to  
**Rotary International Polio Plus**

**SATURDAY AUGUST 2, 2025**

**REGISTRATION BEGINS @ 1PM**

**BOWLING BEGINS @ 2PM**

**\$35**

**Per  
Player**

**\$150**

**Per  
Team**

**LOCATION**

**INCA LANES**

1250 WEST 16TH STREET, YUMA, AZ

**3 GAMES OF BOWLING & SHOES INCLUDED**

**SIGN UP NOW!**

Please return the registration to

**Mike (928) 580-5992**  
**mrsuba@yahoo.com**

Make checks payable to:

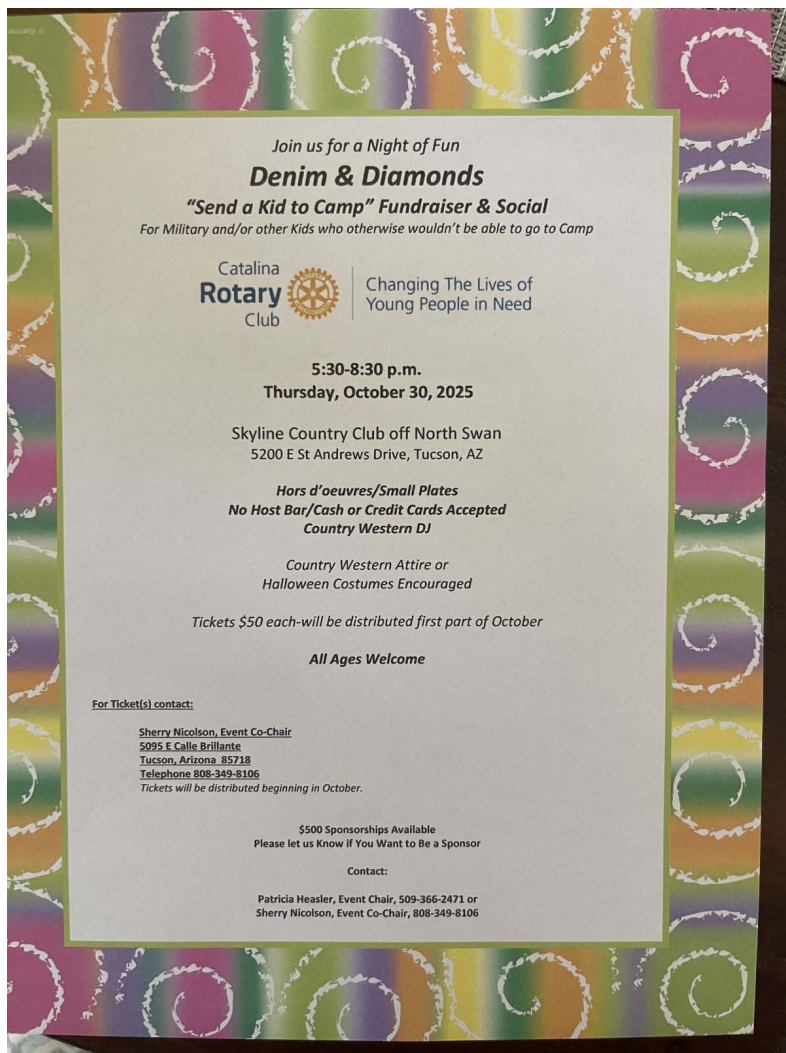
**The Yuma Sunrise Rotary Club/Bowl XI** | All proceeds go to **Rotary International Polio Plus**



[Read More](#)

## Catalina Rotary: Denim & Diamonds Fundraiser

Thursday, October 30, 2025. 5:30 - 8:30 PM  
"Send a Kid to Camp"



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## RCOT - 2025 Tucson Classic Car Show

**Save the Date! Saturday, October 18**

**A fundraising opportunity for your club:**

All Rotary Clubs are invited to sell tickets to the TCCS and keep half of whatever they raise ... \$5 of every \$10 ticket you sell.

[Click here](#) to learn more and to sign up.



## Share Your Club's News!

Would you like to publish your club's upcoming events, projects or fundraisers in **IMPACT?**

Fill out [this form](#) with your information and send it to Dave Lenox at [DaveRotary5500@gmail.com](mailto:DaveRotary5500@gmail.com) by Friday for the following week's newsletter. Include your photo or graphic as a separate attachment as a jpg or png file.

**PLUS...SHOWCASE YOUR PAST PROJECTS & FUNDRAISERS!** We'll feature them in our **Rotary in Action Quarterly**. Use [this form](#) and send it to [DaveRotary5500@gmail.com](mailto:DaveRotary5500@gmail.com). *Don't forget to include photos -- the more the merrier!*

