

Rotary District 5500 Corporate Board August 18, 2025 Meeting Minutes

The Rotary District 5500 Board Zoom meeting was called to order by District Governor Bruce Monroe at 6:30 p.m.

Present: District Governor Bruce Monro, District Governor Elect Emma Carrillo, District Governor Nominee Leo Lawrenson, Past District Governor Sue Archibald, Lynn Devou, Diane Ventura Goodyear, Kristi Halvorson, Ann Huber, Don Jorgensen, Dave Lenox, Ellie Patterson, Melissa Short, Reba Webber

1. DG Bruce welcomed everyone including new members, Melissa Short and Reba Webber
2. The minutes from May 19, 2025 were reviewed. Reba noted that there were some minor typing errors. Kristi made motion to approve the minutes with proposed corrections to the typing errors. Ann seconded the motion and the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

3. Treasures Report (Mickie was not present and Ellie provided the following updates):

The team is trying to streamline and improve current bank accounts due to the total number of District bank accounts. This will include a process for documenting the way the accounts are managed, since most of the current methods have been verbal. Bruce, Don, and Ellie are now First Interstate Bank signatories and Sue and Anita will be signatories for Reserve Fund Account.

CPA Review was completed and will be sent with the CODL package to all Clubs. Don will be mailing that package this week, and Club representatives will approve the Review at the District Conference.

4. District Rotary Foundation Report:

The Global Grant for Tubac Cleft Palate project has been approved and is waiting for funding. The first project is scheduled for October 3-6 in Hermosillo, Mexico. The Tucson Senegal Once Stitch at a Time Sewing Project has been submitted and is waiting for approval.

The Spending Plan for District Grants, \$68,537 in DDF, has been filed with RI. There is about \$20,000 more in DDF this year than last year. There are 18 district grants totaling \$ 48,200, \$18,280 in contingencies and \$2,056 for administrative expenses. In September, we will start a second round of District Grants with the contingency amount with a maximum award of \$2,000 for each grant, and planning on that to remain open until January.

The Rotary Foundation Funding, \$416K, is up \$64K from last year. Polio Plus, \$107K, is up from \$98K from last year. The Annual Fund, \$284K, is up from \$246K from last year. The Endowment Cast, \$20K is up from \$100 last year. There are 19 new Major Donors since July 2024, 3 added this year. Since July of last year there are 2 new Bequest Society members. There are 15 new Paul Harris Society members, at

\$1000 every year. A new Triple Crown Donor, Robert Lamar of the Saddlebrooke Sunrise Club has been added since last year. EREY Banners have gone to seven Clubs: Benson, Casa Grande, Coolidge, Dove Mountain, Marana, Sierra Vista Sunrise, Somerton, Casas Adobes and Tucson Sunrise.

- Some noteworthy activities being planned are as follows:
- Summer Newsletter – planned for the end of August
- In September a 20 minute power point program will be available on the D5500 website that TRF Chairs can use in the month of November
- TRF is hosting a hospitality table at the District Conference on Friday night. Major Gifts Officer Laura Mello will be joining us again this year. There will also be a table in the HoF and John Oszust will be signing people up for the Bequest Society.
- World Polio Day is October 24
- Ride to End Polio is November 22

The USA Mexico Friendship Conference and Global Grant Exchange is scheduled for October 30 through November 2 in Yuma. Registration is open and information is available regarding hotel reservations. Per Sue planning for the event includes improving sponsorships. Currently District 5495 has 28 \$10K sponsors and District 5500 has 5. District 5495 is completing the program plans for the event and expects more attendees from Mexico. The program will bring attention to Global Grant opportunities and allow attendees to directly talk to individuals who are involved in prospective projects

5. Membership update (Wendy was not present, and Bruce provided the following update):

This past year the District has added 286 members but lost 280. He noted that we have retention issues and have been flat since the COVID epidemic. We had 25 Clubs that gained members but had 20 Clubs that lost members. The District had gained 67 members in June but then lost 73 members in July. During his term, Bruce will be focused on addressing the retention issues. He noted that 40% of the members who leave say that it's because they don't have a good Club experience.

6. Youth Services:

The District website needs RYLA information updated, Bruce will follow up on this issue. A meeting will be held September 2 regarding the curriculum and Chapel Rock has been secured for the event.

Applications for RYE are due in October 2025, and so far we have the student from the Yuma area going to Romania. RYE will be at the District Conference and the District would like to see more outreach regarding RYE. RYE also has short exchange programs available with applications available until January 2026.

Leo noted that Deborah Dimmett, the new District Interact Chair, is compiling a list of Interact Clubs and there will be 3 to 4 break out sessions for the Interact-ers at the District Conference. The District will provide meals and pay for registration fees for the Interact Club members. The District is expecting about 50 Interact members to attend the Conference.

7. Joint projects:

The curriculum for the RLA joint project with District 5495 is being developed. David Zimmerman has received input from the team and is planning a second meeting to address revisions. No firm date has been identified for the course, but Dave is planning on the fall timeframe.

TRVFA has received 83 applications in the last 2 months, and has put a temporary pause on accepting applications until tax season. There will be a booth at the District Conference, which will include a raffle for 6 donated quilts.

Yuma Territorial Club is focusing on Trade schools with TRVFA. Diane has already reached out to Cochise and Pima Community Colleges to provide information on TRVFA.

Diane requested that we review the Board By-Laws regarding the number of members allotted to District 5500 vs 5495. District 5500 has 3 members while 5495 has 6 under the current process. The President and Treasurer are consistently part of 5495. This causes an issue in 5500 being able to access quick books to view financials. Getting reports has also been an issue. Don noted that any suggestions to upgrade the By-Laws could be added to the CODL session. Diane noted that the Board officer assignments should be addressed in the By-Laws to resolve the financial and report access issues. A DG-to-DG discussion may need to take place to discuss the Board structure, and Bruce will address this. Emma asked to be invited if a meeting should take place with the DG's.

The current donation amounts Diane was able to provide were \$3267 for District 5495 and \$6847 for District 5500.

8. District Goals 2025-2026:

- Bruce would like to add a new and/or satellite Club to the District this year.
- Clubs are being asked to provide 1-3 year term goals their Clubs to the District, and the District needs to do the same thing. Emma and Leo will be part of that goal setting for the District.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Next Meeting date planned for 11/17/2025 at 6:30 pm

Submitted by Reba Webber