

# Rotary

## District 5300



### Betsy's Brilliance

By Elizabeth McDonough Barry on Tuesday, June 14, 2022

Hello to the Best Rotarians in the World!



When I was going through training, I was told that being District Governor would change my life, that I would make even more friends and have a lifetime of memories. To be honest, I doubtfully thought to myself, "Uh, yeah. I'm good. Thanks." But, they were so right!

This year has flown by so quickly and I am little bummed this is my last article, but I am also so excited about the following leadership in the governor's line to bring their best to the District!

This past Rotary year, "should be" the last of its kind: i.e., no COVID restrictions! My original Governor Nominee training started out normally in Denver, Colorado. Then COVID shut everything down. My next level of training was all via Zoom. Even the International Assembly and the Rotary International Convention were virtual. PDG Greg Jones had his District Conference via Zoom. Later, I had a welcome reception as District Governor via Zoom. Some of my initial visits were via Zoom. I delayed setting up official visits in the hopes that COVID would dissipate -- that worked for a bit -- and then I got COVID! But, alas, when I was FINALLY able to come see the clubs live and in person, it was like reaching an oasis after being stranded in a hot desert for weeks!! Rotarians did not miss a beat during the tough times COVID dealt us. They continued to soldier on and serve the needs of their communities and stay in touch with each other. I was in awe when I heard what each of our wonderful clubs does for their areas of influence. Simply "WOW"!! A BIG congratulations to yourselves for a fabulous job well done!

I have met a lot of wonderful people that I would not have met otherwise. The most rewarding and touching aspect of the year was when I was able to sit down and just start talking and sharing with Rotarians. That's when friendships evolved and got stronger. My passion as a Rotarian grew stronger when club members enthusiastically shared with me what all their clubs do. Those are the moments that I will treasure.

As your Governor and myself a Past President, I always tried to keep in mind what I could do at the District level to make clubs better and to help bring others to Rotary. That was part of why my mind landed on the Valentine's Day Food Drive. And I am so beyond overjoyed at the generosity you all had in bringing this little brainchild of mine to life! We came together as a District and helped those in need in every corner of our polygon-shaped District! Friendships and partnerships were forged as we were able to finally get out and do something together! We easily donated well over 4 tons of food and over \$250,000.00 in cash contributions. According to a Google search, \$1.70 will buy 1 pound of non-perishable food for donation purposes. A ton is equal to 2,000 pounds. (Ask a teenager to do the math!) We also partnered with District 5330, which covers Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. My sincere hope is that this food drive is kept alive in the years following and that we will ask even more Districts to participate.

The other project that came to mind as I was travelling to the clubs was how awesome each club's projects are. They are amazing! This leads to the "Grow and Know Rotary" event. Each club in the area would showcase what the club does and invite as many people to come as possible. A new idea, but it works! One of the areas had over 25 people in attendance and some have already joined! Rotary is grassroots and each of the clubs can and should reach out to their neighboring clubs and organize their own event. "Many hands make light work" -- so, if the clubs work together, they can share the marketing and community outreach. I could go on as to the benefits of programs like this, but the one that jumps to mind is not only gaining new members, but providing purpose and engagement to existing members. Let's keep this going!

I am looking forward to seeing you all at District Conference! The theme is Star Trek because Rotary Goes Boldly Where No Service Organization Has Gone Before! Since we have not been together officially in 2 years, this is a great time to reconnect, share, hug (!!), and regenerate as we can now proceed normally (hopefully, fingers crossed!). There's still time to register! Also, there will be a costume contest!! Beam on over!!

Finally, a BIG THANK YOU to ALL of YOU for all your help, assistance, advice and smiles during my tenure. You all did your part to keep this tremendous organization going and you did it having FUN! Again, I can't thank you all enough for all you do!! We do "Serve to Change Lives"!

Thank you and God bless you on your journeys!!

### Las Vegas Summerlin Rotary Club Reached For The Stars

By Michael Turner on Monday, June 13, 2022

This Rotary year started out rocky because we were just coming out of the pandemic. The Las Vegas Summerlin Club Rotary restarted "live" meetings in June 2021, but some members were still uncomfortable being in large gatherings. At the same time, we had less than a month to find a new venue for our breakfast meetings.

The aftermath of the pandemic was certainly on the board members' minds when they met for their planning retreat to establish the club's goals for 2021 - 2022. How ambitious did the board want to be? Some board members expressed concern that we didn't want to set "pie in the sky" goals, but to be more on the realistic side. Others felt that following the pandemic people wanted to do more because they were anxious to return to a pre-pandemic normal. So, in the end, the board decided that the club should not settle for the status quo, but to take

#### Account Leaders

Elizabeth McDonough Barry  
District Governor  
Roger H. Gutierrez  
District Gov-Elect  
Michael L. Soden  
District Gov-Nominee  
Philip Miles  
District Treasurer

#### Events

June 23rd  
[District Golf Tournament](#)  
June 23rd  
[District Conference](#)  
June 24th  
[2021-22 ANNUAL DISTRICT 5300 CONFERENCE 6/24-6/26, 2022](#)  
June 24th  
[Rotary Club of North Las Vegas Debunking](#)  
June 25th  
[June 25th Concert Volunteers](#)  
June 29th  
[Feed the Homeless](#)  
June 30th  
[Annual Debunking Party](#)  
June 30th  
[Debunking](#)  
July 2nd  
[Glendora Rotary's Field of Heroes OPENING CEREMONIES](#)  
July 2nd  
[Glendora Rotary's Field of Heroes](#)  
July 4th  
[Summerlin Patriotic Parade](#)  
July 4th  
[Monrovia Club 4th of July Sponsorship](#)  
July 9th  
[Take Down Flags Lake Avenue](#)  
July 9th  
[Concert Volunteers - Concert 1](#)  
July 16th  
[Concert Volunteers - Concert 2](#)



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some risks and reach for the stars. The consensus was that we needed to reenergize the club.

Membership Chair Dave Padgett wanted to add 10 new members; President-elect and Fundraising Chair Neil Roth set his goal at about \$120,000 (gross revenue); community service chairs set the number of projects at 12 and volunteer hours at 2,800. The opening of the new year was the Debunking Party on July 6. We estimated 30 to 35 guests, but 65 showed up. Was this an omen for the remainder of the year? Here are some of the outcomes: 17 new members were added, giving the club a net six increase from the previous year; 25 projects were conducted; volunteer hours topped 3,800; and we raised \$188,000 (gross revenue). Yes, that number is correct. By the way, previously the club only raised less than 20% of that amount.

A word of caution. Establishing goals is important for a club's success. However, they will not be realized without a fully engaged membership who brings determination and dedication to the table. The best way to sum up what the Las Vegas Summerlin Rotary Club learned from this experience is to quote Debbi Fields, the founder of Mrs. Fields Bakeries, "Don't ever lose sight of your dreams. And most importantly, Reach for the Stars!"

## The Rotary Club of Las Vegas Southwest Holds Annual

By Keith Vern Thomas on Monday, June 13, 2022



On May 26, 2022, the Rotary Club of Las Vegas Southwest held its annual "Gold Raffle" fundraiser. During the evening, Rotarians and guests had the chance to win raffle prizes, to bid at a silent and a live auction, and to participate in drawings to win actual gold.

Throughout the evening, \$10,000 in gold was awarded. They raised a ton of money for youth and community service projects, and had a lot of fun and good food (and a few libations.). Vern Ratzlaff, a former Southwest Rotarian and past President of the club, again provided stellar service as the live auctioneer.



The event was held at "Celebrity Cars Las Vegas". Owned by a Rotarian, it is a unique event space filled with millions of dollars in exotic and classic cars, motorcycles and more, including Al Capone's car (which can be yours

for the paltry sum of \$1,000,000!)

Best of all, they awarded 44 Paul Harris Fellowships (each of which signifies a \$1,000 donation from a Southwest Rotarian to The Rotary Foundation.) In addition, three Southwest Rotarians (Francesca Gilbert, Doug Malan, and Cliff Silverstein) were recognized as Major Donors. Our club now has 19 Major Donors and has awarded over 750 Paul Harris Fellowships. Southwest Rotary also has the distinction of being the first club in District 5300 to become a 100% Paul Harris Fellow Club, achieving that status during the 2007-2008 Rotary year. Past District Governor Tom Novotny was in attendance and presented the Paul Harris Fellowship and Major Donor awards.

Some of the projects that funds raised will support include:

1. Back to School Shopping - Clothing and school supplies for "At Risk" children.
2. Happy Feet - New shoes and socks provided at various "At Risk" schools.
3. Feed the Homeless - Food, clothing and hygiene kits are provided for persons in need.
4. Opportunity Village's Magical Forest - We sponsor "At Risk" elementary students to visit Opportunity Village's Magical Forest in November/December.
5. Boys and Girls Club of Southern Nevada - We support the annual Boys Night Out and Girls Day events. We have at least 2-3 volunteers who basically "adopt" a child for a night and take them around the event for various activities.
6. Scholarships and Sponsorships:
  - a. Dan Stover Music Competition, TLC, RYLA, 4 Way Speech Contest
  - b. Las Vegas Southwest Rotary Club John and Lou Yoxen Memorial Scholarship - The Club offers a 4-year renewable scholarship of \$9,600 to a graduating senior who attends a Nevada college or university.



All in attendance had a fun, rewarding, and fulfilling evening, thanks in no small part to a great Gold Raffle Committee (Paul Gustilo, Joe Wittenwiler, Rebecca Collett, Melissa Brooks, Eric Colvin, Fred Fukumoto, and, of course, our totally awesome club President, Jordana Lane).

## Rotary Global Grant Scholar Mark Liang

By William Payne on Monday, June 13, 2022

Hello Rotarians,

As the weather warms, things are coming back to life here in England. The grass is getting greener and students are finally leaving the library. I myself submitted my thesis today, which means I am finally free. Hooray!

These last few months have been jam-packed. I had some visitors from San Marino visit, and I made a few weekend trips to warmer weather in Croatia and Spain. We are also in the midst of the Jubilee, celebrating 70 years of Queen Elizabeth's reign. What a time to be in the United Kingdom -- I will be buying many half-off tea towels and mugs in the next weeks to take home.

It hasn't been all fun and games: I'm really proud that, with Rotary funding, I have led a research group authoring the first national report looking at mental health amongst recent Hong Kong immigrants in Britain. The country's demographics are rapidly changing, and just like at home, different groups of people have different concerns related to their healthcare, education, and employment. This research report is just one step in providing evidence-based data for disease prevention and treatment, a key theme of Rotary's global goals. The link to the report is here:

<https://www.hongkongers.org.uk/mental-survey>

This year has been a fantastic opportunity for my own academic and personal growth, and I invite any recent graduate thinking about applying for a Rotary Global Grant Scholarship to reach out. The Rotarians on both sides of the pond are always looking for diverse scholars in a range of fields, and I promise you that coming here is something that can have a meaningful impact on your life.

I'm coming home in a couple of months, but until then, there are backpacking trips to plan and May Balls to attend (in June, don't ask).

All the best,

Mark Liang

Wisteria blooming in Pembroke College, University of Cambridge:



The walk from my room to the Pembroke Library, on a rare sunny day:



## The Antelope Valley's New Motto!

By Gilda Moshir on Monday, June 13, 2022



At our recent Membership Meeting, we met Don Ryan, the President of Antelope Valley Rotary Club. He's about to finish his term as President. He has over a 30-year history with Rotary and has served as President eight times. A few years ago, his club was dwindling in size, as well as other clubs in the area. A discussion was held with members of the Clubs of Rosamond, Antelope Valley Sunrise, and Palmdale. With District help from Past District Governors Raghada Khoury, John Chase, and Luanne "Mama Lu" Arredondo, they collaborated with Gene Melchers, Sam Garcia, and Don to establish the merger of all three clubs into one nice size. They are now 3 years after the merger with new Bylaws and a new outlook for the larger Club. Each of the Club's Presidents took a turn as new President. Gene from the Rosamond Club was 1st, Sam Garcia from the Palmdale Club was 2nd and Don was 3rd.

The new club motto is, "Antelope Valley Rotary, The Morning, Noon and Night Club." They meet once a quarter in the Morning, once a month in Rosamond (20 miles from Palmdale) at lunchtime, and all other meetings are in Palmdale at nighttime.

This year alone the club has gained 8 new members and President Don was glowing with this news because he is "hands-on" about membership. He shared that the club has connected with several area Chambers of Commerce and treats Rotary like a business. They are currently having a Fiesta fundraiser for an International Project: Breast Cancer Screening in Mexico. The club bought 400 tote bags with the Rotary Symbol and the People in Action logo. These tote bags were filled with information about the Fiesta Rotary and other local clubs in our area. These were distributed to fellow

businesspeople during luncheons and mixers at Chamber events.

The other clever idea Don shared was that the club bought 100 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies and affixed a label on the back with club information and their Mission Statement. They gifted the cookies to First Responders and Agencies, encouraging people to go to the Club Website to see how Rotary impacts the community. I don't know what you might think, but that maybe a sure way to increase membership.

Great job Antelope Valley! Keep up the good work!



## Grow and Know Rotary Challenge

By Gilda Moshir on Monday, June 13, 2022



I'd like to invite the ROTARY community to attend and register for another GROW & KNOW ROTARY event on Thursday, June 30 from 4 - 8:30 pm at the San Gabriel Hilton Hotel - this is a MEGAMIX EXPO designed for business owners - over 13 chambers are participating with over 130 exhibitors and expecting to have 1-2000 people attend who will be connecting to local businesses in the San Gabriel Valley and beyond. There are 6 workshops from 4 - 5 pm for business owners to protect their businesses from human resources to insurance to current laws. D5300 Rotary will be an exhibitor - we need your help to come REP your club.

Reach out to Gilda Moshir at [gmoshir@gmail.com](mailto:gmoshir@gmail.com) to offer your help.

Registration is required for the MEGAMIX EXPO - you can register by visiting this site: <https://www.sqvmegamixexpo.com/>

and enter this promo code to get the registration fee of \$20 waived. Promo Code VIPGilda2022

Rotary  District 5300

Name of Requester: \_\_\_\_\_ Requested By: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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Name of Club: \_\_\_\_\_ Check Number: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF CHECK: \_\_\_\_\_



## Rotarians Being Recognized: Chehab Elewar

By Luanne Arrendondo on Monday, June 13, 2022



One of our past district governors, Chehab ElAwar, was featured in a magazine recently. It created amazing exposure for Rotary to non-Rotarians.

He has been instrumental in helping many clubs across California and Nevada. Please take a look at the article from Mediators Beyond Borders International! The article link is below:

<https://mediatorsbeyondborders.org/a-resilient-rotarian-member-spotlight-chehab-elawar/>

# In Memory of Rotarian David Maddox

By Don Ryan on Tuesday, June 14, 2022

Dave Maddox served Rotary in a number of capacities in his 20 plus years of Service.

Held most Positions as well as President 2016-2017

Passed this side of the Earth January 15,2022

Thanks, Don Ryan-President Antelope Valley Rotary



## Area 12 Know and Grow Rotary Event Big Success

By Glenn Ritt on Thursday, June 16, 2022



Golfing for Veterans on May 20th became the vehicle for the Area 12 Rotary Clubs to put on a great **Know and Grow Rotary Event**. District Governor Elect Roger

Gutierrez was on hand to participate. The event benefited 4 local Veterans Organizations, including "Stand Up and Play" featured in the photo. Las Vegas Summerlin President Michael Turner is also in the photo flanked by beautiful Las Vegas Showgirls.

The Summerlin Rotary Foundation and Summerlin Rotary Club hosted the event at Red Rock Country Club. Participating clubs included; Spring Mountain, Las Vegas, Las Vegas After Hours, Summerlin, Las Vegas West, Boulder Sunrise, and the Downtown Las Vegas Rotary Club.

The 132 golfers included teams from 6 Rotary clubs competing for the Paul Harris Cup. The winning team was from the Spring Mountain Rotary Club.

Corporate Sponsors from major corporations were represented in the tournament, the evening event following, and in the presentation of awards and checks. Over 30 volunteers from the Summerlin Rotary Club were on hand to help facilitate. The event literally put Rotary on



the map in Area 12. It showcased the three elements embraced by the Summerlin Club #community #commerce #camaraderie. Rotary diversity, member involvement, community involvement and relevance were highlighted in a subtle way throughout the event.

Over 250 guests attended the BBQ and Awards Celebration following golf. Area 12 clubs were allowed to bring up to 10 guests each to promote Rotary membership. Guests were entertained at a Golf Ball Drop preceding the BBQ. Las Vegas Fire Department Fire Fighters brought a hook and ladder to the event to drop the Golf Balls.

Instead of reinventing the wheel, consider folding membership events into existing successful projects that

your Club has already hosted. It works!!

